

Hiller - Butterfly Waltz

What does the title mean?

This is a pictorial title that gives an image. A waltz is a ballroom dance in 3/4 time of Austrian/German background. This piece is from a larger work that has been written for children. The butterfly character can be heard in the gentle floating RH and delicate ornaments.

What key is this in?

Basically in B minor but alternates with a G7 chord every second bar. The RH uses B aeolian (natural minor).

The ending uses a device called 'Tierce de picardy' - B major.

Notation:

Zart schwebend - delicately floating

Metronome marking - 92 crotchets per minute

3/4 - simple triple time - 3 crotchet beats per bar

Pedal - damper pedal marking

Pedale simile - keep pedalling the same way

pp - pianissimo - very soft

Fermata - pause - hold the notes or rests longer than written

Natural sign - cancel the sharp or flat

Sharp - raise the note a semitone

P - piano - soft

Tie - hold the notes for their full value

Accent - play the note louder

Slur - play smoothly

Ornament - small additional notes - some are grace notes or acciacaturas

Triplet - 3 notes in the time of 2

Riten. - ritenuto - immediately held back

A tempo - return to original speed

Ossia - optional version

Ritard. - ritardando - gradually slow down