

Humoreske Op 6. M. Levine (attributed to Josef Lhevinne, 1874-1944)
Molto vivace 6/8 time

- Lhevinne himself stated that "rhythm is spirit in music".
- It is the lively *staccato* rhythm that gives this piece its capricious nature.
- Like the later humoreskes of the Romantic period, Levine's *Humoreske* contains short-breathed melodies and strongly accented rhythms.
- The word *humoreske* is derived from the Latin word 'humor', which refers not so much to humourous, rather to good-humoured.
- Schumann, Dvorak and Grieg were some of the composers to associate themselves with this form.
- Most humoreskes were written for piano, although an exception exists in Loewe's *Fünf Humoresken Op 84* for a male voice quartet.
- Levine's *Humoreske* introduces itself with a lively motive centred around B. From the beginning, contrasts are apparent not only in dynamics but texture and range also.
- A middle section of ascending and descending *staccato* phrases climaxes twice on dominant 7th and 9th chords, followed by rapid descending chromatic passages.
- The original section is then repeated with slight variations, culminating in a surprise finish, all in just over 2 minutes.