CLEMENTI: SONATINA IN D MAJOR, OP. 36 NO. 6
First Movement: Allegro con spirito

1. What does the title mean?

Sonatina means "little sonata". It is generally shorter and less technically demanding than a full sonata and was often written for students. **Op. 36** means Opus 36, identifying the collection in Clementi's works. **No. 6** is the sixth of the six sonatinas in the collection. **Allegro con spirito** means "fast and with spirit", indicating a lively, energetic character.

2. Period and style

This work belongs to the Classical period and was first published in 1797. Typical Classical features heard in the movement include:

- Clear, balanced phrases and regular musical patterns.
- Light, elegant character.
- Melody and accompaniment texture, with the right hand frequently carrying the melody.
- Formal structures such as Sonata form, contrasting themes and carefully organised key relationships.
- Clear tonal harmony, cadences and movement between tonic and dominant.
- Scales, arpeggios and broken chord patterns.
- Contrasting dynamics, light articulation and an elegant but energetic character.
- Fortepiano used, limited pedalling.

3. Structure

The movement is in sonata form: Exposition, Development and Recapitulation, followed by closing material.

4. Keys used

The home key is D major. In the Exposition the music moves to A major, the dominant. The Development becomes harmonically less stable before the tonic returns in the Recapitulation.

Bars	**Key / tonal area**	**Function**
EXPOSITION Bars 1–11 FIRST SUBJECT	D major	Tonic; opening tonal area, with brief reference to G major.
EXPOSITION Bars 12–18 BRIDGE	D major → A major	Transition towards the dominant.
EXPOSITION Bars 19–29 SECOND SUBJECT	A major	Dominant; second theme and closing material.
EXPOSITION Bars 30 to 38 CODETTA	A major	Closing material for this section
DEVELOPMENT Bars 38 onwards	A major area	Beginning of the Development.
DEVELOPMENT Bars 43–52	Changing tonal areas	Unstable harmony, including secondary dominants and diminished seventh harmony.
DEVELOPMENT Bars 53–56	Dominant preparation	A harmony prepares the return to D major.
RECAPITULATION Bars 57–74 FIRST SUBJECT AND BRIDGE	D major	Recapitulation and altered transition.
RECAPITULATION Bar 75–end SECOND SUBJECT AND CODETTA	D major	Second theme and closing material remain in the tonic.

5. Musical notation and definitions

Notation / term	Meaning
Allegro con spirito	Fast and with spirit; lively and energetic.
4/4	Four crotchet beats in each bar.
D major key signature	Two sharps: F♯ and C♯.
p — piano	Softly.
f — forte	Loudly.
cresc.	Gradually getting louder.
dim.	Gradually getting softer.
Legato / slur	Notes played smoothly and connected; a slur groups notes into one musical gesture or phrase.
Staccato ·	Short and detached.
Accent >	Give the note extra emphasis.
♯ sharp	Raises a note by one semitone.
♮ natural	Cancels a sharp or flat.
♭ flat	Lowers a note by one semitone.
Treble clef	Used for the higher register, usually the right hand.
Bass clef	Used for the lower register, usually the left hand.
Repeat signs	The enclosed section is played again.
Fermata 𝄐	Hold a note or rest longer than its written value.
8va	Play the written notes one octave higher.
Ped.	Use the sustain pedal; pedal indications can vary between editions.
Dolce	Sweetly
fz	Fzorzando - sudden accent
acciaccatura	Short note before main note
ff - fortissimo	Very loud
Simile	Continue in the same way
Poco ritard	A little gradually getting slower