

Etude 52 from 84 studies by Cramer

What does the title mean?

Etude is the French word for study. A study in musical terms is a piece that hones a particular musical skill. This study develops slurs and repeated notes.

Form/Keys:

Ternary form - straightforward harmony

Section A - F major - RH repeated pattern

Section B - bar 17 Bb major - characterised by overhand melody with LH repeated pattern

Section A - bar 37 F major - some different closing material

Coda Bar 53

Period: Classical

Style: symmetrical melody in balanced phrases and cadences; tuneful, diatonic, with narrow leaps in the melody. Dance rhythms favored, regularly recurring accents in the rhythm, tapered phrases. Diatonic harmony favoured; tonic-dominant relationship expanded, becomes basis for large-scale form; homophonic texture; chordal-vertical dimension to the harmony; genres include symphony, solo concerto, solo sonata, string quartet, other chamber music genres, opera, mass, oratorio. Larger forms including sonata-allegro form developed. Dynamics continuously change through crescendo and diminuendo (gradation of volume). Changing tone colours from one section to the next. Orchestra standardized into four families; introduction of clarinet, trombone; rise of piano to prominence; improvisation largely limited to cadenzas in concertos and improvisation competitions; emotional balance and restraint 'elegant and light'.

** Cramer crossover between Classical and Romantic but overall he was a conservative composer, so really sits in the Classical.

Composer/Genres:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Baptist_Cramer

Classical/Romantic period. Learnt under Clementi. Considered a fine pianist along with Beethoven.

Entrepreneur - published some of Beethoven's works (his own music publishing company). His company also made musical instruments. Wrote basically keyboard sonatas, some piano concertos and piano quintet.

Notation:

staccatissimo - wedges - very short accented staccato

m.d. - mano destra - Italian right hand

m.s. - mano sinistra - Italian left hand

Presto - very fast

12/8 - compound quadruple - 12 quavers per bar - 4 dotted crotchet beats

slur - play legato

staccato - play short

simile - similar