Monferrina – No. 7 from 12 Monferrinas, Op. 49

Muzio Clementi (1752–1832)

Title and character

A monferrina is a lively Italian folk dance from the Monferrato region of Piedmont. Its character is heard in the quick 6/8 dance rhythm, buoyant movement. It is danced by couples moving in a circle, with linked arms.

Keys and Structure – ternary form (A–B–A)

A^1 (bars 1–24^1): D major – B minor – D major
B (bars 24^2–48^1): D minor; two contrasting themes repeated.
A^2 (bars 48^2–72): Return of A with ornamentation and a higher-register ending.

Period and style

Classical period (c. 1750–1820). Clear four-bar phrases, balanced repetition, straightforward harmony and cadences. Homophonic texture: right-hand melody with left-hand broken-chord accompaniment.

Notation on the score

Allegro vivace – fast and lively;
dotted crotchet ≈ 80 –
6/8 time - compound duple time - two dotted crotchet beats per bar
f – loud;
p – soft;
fz – forzando - sudden loud note
cresc. – gradually louder;
p misterioso – softly and mysteriously.
Slurs – smoothly connected;
staccato dots – short and detached;
accents – emphasise notes;
hairpins – gradual crescendo/diminuendo;
accidentals (♯, ♭, ♮) – alter pitch;

simile – continue similarly;
pedale simile – continue similar pedalling;
grace notes – quick ornamental notes.