

Dussek – Chamber Music with Piano (1995)

Written by bluesever

Thursday, 12 January 2017 14:11 -

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Quintet In F Minor, Op.41, For Piano, Violin, Viola, Cello And Double Bass 1 *Allegro Moderato Ma Con Fuoco* 11:55 2 *Adagio Espressivo* 5:25 3 *Allegretto Ma Espressivo E Moderato* 6:07

Sonata In F Minor, Op.77, "Invocation" For Piano (Dédiée A Mlle Betsy Ouvrard)

4 *Allegro Moderato Ma Energico* 10:26 5 *Tempo Di Minuetto Con Moto* 4:59 6 *Adagio Non Troppo Ma Solenne* 7:04 7 *Rondo. Allegro Moderato* 7:43

Quartet In E Flat Major, Op.56 For Piano, Violin, Viola And Cello

8 *Allegro Affettuoso* 9:01 9 *Larghetto Quasi Andante* 6:50 10 *Allegretto Moderatissimo* 6:08

Hanuš Bartoň – piano Quartet Apollon: Martin Válek – violin (tracks: 1 to 3) Radek Křižanovský - violin (tracks: 8 to 10) Vladimír Kroupa – viola Pavel Verner – cello Pavel Verner – double bass

Jan Dussek (1760-1812) is considered the first important touring piano virtuoso, and was a highly regarded composer mainly of works related to that instrument. He was born in Bohemia; his parents were both musicians – the father Jan Josef Dussek (1738 - 1818) was an organist and composer, while the mother played the harp. Dussek studied piano from the age of five, played the organ at nine, and was also a singer in a boy's choir; in 1778, he attended the University of Prague. By the late 1770s and early 1780s, he was travelling, playing the piano, and also became a keyboard teacher; while in Hamburg in 1782, he was taught by C.P.E. Bach, who was highly impressed with his pupil. Additional travels took him to Russia, Lithuania, and Germany in the mid-1780s, where he also played the glass harmonica. Paris was his residence in the later 1780s, before he left for England - during all of these wanderings and residencies, he concertized & composed.

In 1792 he married the singer, pianist and harpist Sofia, the daughter of the music publisher Domenico Corri and founded the publishing house of Corri, Dussek & Co. Joseph Haydn made Dussek's acquaintance during his London visits, and as such was the only one of the Viennese

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classical composers to meet this international colleague. Haydn expressed his praise and admiration for Dussek in words previously used only in regard to Mozart as “a most upright man of integrity, culture and – concerning music – most excellent”. Dussek's music business with his father-in-law failed in 1799; Corri was imprisoned, and Dussek fled England leaving his wife and now daughter behind. He spent the years 1800-1807 mainly in Germany, resumed his European concert career (including a tour of Bohemia) - during this time he was the first pianist to place the piano sideways on the stage, so the audience could view him in profile (which must have ballooned in later years).

Dussek assume a number of other positions and remained popular until his death; in his last years he suffered from gout and other ailments, including excessive drinking and extreme obesity. However, he was highly admired for his piano playing, innovations for the instrument, and his many compositions. Other performers and composers, such as Clementi and Reicha were clearly influenced by Dussek's piano style; Moscheles, Hummel, Kalkbrenner, and even Chopin were likely influenced.

Jan Dussek composed primarily for the piano and for his own concert appearances, but he also promoted the publication and distribution of his works. 14 piano concertos, among them one for two pianos and orchestra, 3 harp concertos (also for the piano), piano trios, chamber music with piano, sonatas for piano 4 hands and above all the sonatas for solo piano, all indicating his preference for this instrument. --- good-music-guide.com

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