
à *Mademoiselle Amélie de Bonnard*

*Grande
Fantaisie
Dramatique*

par

Henri Bertini Jeune

1798–1876

Op. 118

Henri Jérôme Bertini 1798–1876

Henri Jérôme Bertini was born in London on October 28, 1798, but his family returned to Paris six months later. He received his early musical education from his father and his brother, a pupil of Clementi. He was considered a child prodigy and at the age of 12 his father took him on a tour of England, Holland, Flanders, and Germany where he was enthusiastically received. After studies in composition in England and Scotland he was appointed professor of music in Brussels but returned to Paris in 1821. It is known that Bertini gave a concert with Franz Liszt in the Salons Pape on April 20, 1828. The program included a transcription by Bertini of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 in A major for eight hands (the other pianists were Sowinsky and Schunke.) He was also admired as a chamber music performer, giving concerts with his friends Fontaine (violin) and Franchomme (cello). He remained active in and around Paris until around 1848 when he retired from the musical scene. In 1859 he moved to Meylan (near Grenoble) where he died on September 30, 1876.

Bertini concertized widely but was not as celebrated a virtuoso as either Kalkbrenner or Henri Herz. One of his contemporaries (Marmontel) described his playing as having Clementi's evenness and clarity in rapid passages as well as the quality of sound, the manner of phrasing, and the ability to make the instrument sing characteristic of the school of Hummel and Moschelès. Thomas Tapper, in the preface of his edition of the Études Op.100 published by Ditson, says:

He was in his time a shining example of the most admirable qualities of an artist. Living in an age of garish virtuosity, and hailed as a brilliant executant himself, he maintained nevertheless the most rigorous standards of musicianship in his playing, in his compositions, and in the music which he appeared before the public to interpret. This is the more remarkable when one considers that his manhood was reached during the luxuriant period of French romanticism and that the extravagances of the literary outburst were reflected in the musical movements of the time. Virtuosity was subjected to sore temptations and many succumbed. Bertini stood for the sounder qualities of the artist and gradually acquired an extended and remunerative *prestige*. His life was singularly devoid of incident and official distinction, but the legacy of pedagogic works which he has left to us and his honorable activity give it every right to be called a success.

Bertini was celebrated as a teacher. Antoine Marmontel, who devoted the second chapter of his work on celebrated pianists to Bertini, writes

He was unsurpassed as a teacher, giving his lessons with scrupulous care and the keenest interest in his pupils' progress. After he had given up teaching, a number of his pupils continued with me, and I recognized the soundness of the principles drawn from his instruction.

It is above all in the special class of studies and caprices, that Bertini's immense popularity is founded. It is here that he occupied a unique position and opened the path over which the next generation of composers was to rush after him. In each of his numerous collections of studies, embracing every degree of difficulty, he has insistently given to every piece, easy or difficult, brief or extended, a character of salient melody. The technical problem to be overcome presents itself as a song; even where the study is devoted to the problem of velocity the general contour falls into a melodic curve, and this is the first and transcendent cause of the universal success of these pieces, which are, furthermore, natural in respect to rhythm and carefully thought out harmonically.

Robert Schumann, in a review of a piano trio in the *Gesammelte Schriften*, comments that Bertini writes easily flowing harmony but that the movements are too long. He continues: "With the best will in the world, we find it difficult to be angry with Bertini, yet he drives us to distraction with his perfumed Parisian phrases; all his music is as smooth as silk and satin."¹ German sentimentality has never appreciated French elegance.

Bertini is best remembered today for his piano method *Le Rudiment du pianiste*, and his 20 books of approximately 500 studies.

For more information on the life of Bertini, see *Henri Bertini pianiste virtuose, compositeur de musique* (Grenoble, 1999) by Pascal Beyls (<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/pascal.beyls/bertini/bertini.html>).

¹ from Cobbett's Cyclopedic Survey of Chamber Music, Second Edition, Volume 1, page 124.

Editorial Notes

The present edition is based on a collection of pieces by Bertini which I bought in northern France from a used book store. The pages measure 25.5 cm × 34 cm. The compositions were obviously bought separately and later bound together. It contains the following:

- Grande Fantaisie Etude, Op. 46. 24 pages.
- Variations de Concert (for piano and string orchestra), Op. 69. 14 pages.
- Trois Nocturnes (L'Espérance, 4 pages, Les Regrets, 8 pages, Le Calme, 4 pages), Op. 87.
- Grande Polonaise (for piano and orchestra or string quartet ad libitum), Op. 93. 19 pages.
- Deux Nocturnes (A Toi!!! et La Solitude), Op. 102. 8 pages.
- Grand Rondo de Concert (piano and orchestra or string quartet ad libitum), Op. 105. 20 pages.
- Dell'aura tua Profetica, Varié pour le Piano, Op. 106. 14 pages.
- Solo pour le Concours de l'Ecole Royale de Musique, Année 1836, Op. 109. 16 pages.
- Grande Fantaisie sur une cavatine par Rubini dans La Straniera, Op. 113. 22 pages.
- Grande Fantaisie Dramatique, Op. 118. 22 pages.
- 2^e Solo pour le Concours de l'Ecole Royale de Musique, Année 1838, Op. 121. 19 pages.

All were published by Henry Lemoine except the first which was published by S. Richault.

As time permits I intend to typeset all these pieces and make them available at the Werner Icking Music Archive. Although the three compositions for piano and strings can be played as solo piano pieces I would greatly appreciate it if someone could supply me with the string parts so I can make them available as well.

Revisions

No attempt has been made to indicate the line or page breaks. Accidentals which are in parentheses are not found in the original; accidentals which are redundant because they occur earlier in the bar, either in the original or editorial, have been silently dropped. In addition, the following changes have been made:

- bar 1: notated as a whole note (not dotted).
- bar 2, 4, and 9: eighths are notated as triplets.
- bars 7 and 8, right hand: octavation in this edition was originally denoted an “8” over the upper notes.
- bar 37, left hand, third beat (middle of the bar), first eighth: g83 rather than f83.
- bar 38, right hand, second beat: there are two eighth rests rather than one.
- bar 49, left hand, first eighth: no dot.
- bar 56, left hand: clef change occurs on the third beat so middle chords are f15 zb zd.
- bar 72, right hand: flats on the e's rather than cautionary naturals.
- bar 96 following, left hand: written in three parts, separate rests for each part.
- bar 138, left hand: chord after the treble clef is a sixteenth note.
- bar 193, right hand: no treble clef before the last octave.
- bar 243, right hand: the last eighth note is between two eighth rests.
- bar 311, left hand, second quarter in bass: b42 sharp.
- bar 331, left hand, tenor: f44d was originally a dotted eighth.
- bar 407, right hand, third quarter (octave f): no dots.
- bar 478, right hand, first beat: original has b24 rather than a24.
- bar 502, left hand: change of clef is missing.
- bar 536, left hand: bottom note is d01.

Approximate duration: 15:30.

James L. Bailey
College of the Rockies
Cranbrook, BC, Canada
bailey@cotr.bc.ca
September 23, 2007

Grande Fantaisie Dramatique

Henri Bertini jeune (1798–1876)

Moderato. grave. M. $\text{♩} = 63$

Fantasia

4 Piu lento.

in Tempo.

ff

8a

8

Maestoso fieramente. M. $\text{♩} = 58$

ff grandioso

15

17

19

21

23

25

po - - - co - - - ri - - - te - - - nu - - - to.

27

in Tempo.

fz pp

ben marcato.

29

tr

8^a

tr

Musical score for Grande Fantaisie Dramatique Op.118, par Henri Bertini. The score consists of five systems of music, each with two staves. Measure numbers 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 are indicated at the beginning of their respective systems. Various dynamics are marked throughout the score, including *cres*, *f*, *ff*, *8^a*, *8^a*, *ff*, *8^a*, *8^a*, *ff*, *pp*, *fz*, *p*, *rall*, and *piu lento.*

Measure 31: Crescendo (cres) followed by a dynamic dash. The bass staff has a continuous eighth-note bass line.

Measure 33: Dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *8^a*. The bass staff features a continuous eighth-note bass line.

Measure 35: Dynamics *ff* and *8^a*. The bass staff has a continuous eighth-note bass line.

Measure 37: Dynamics *8^a*, *8^a*, and *ff*. The bass staff has a continuous eighth-note bass line.

Measure 39: Dynamics *ff*, *piu lento.*, *pp*, *fz*, *p*, *rall*, and a 6/8 time signature. The bass staff has a continuous eighth-note bass line.

6

Allegro moderato M. $\frac{3}{4}$ = 88

43

46

49

52

55

57

59

61

8a

poco piu lento.

mf

64

pp

ff

79

poco piu Presto.

86 in Tempo. 8^a

89 8^a

pp estinto.
rall - - - lento.

pp

94 Andante con Tenerezza. M. ♩ = 54

pp
ben articulato il canto

98

101

104 in Tempo. *Cantando.*

107

110

113

116 in Tempo

f

cres.

molto rall:

119

p

cres.

122 in Tempo

rit

ff

125

dim - e - - - rall - - -

128 *in Tempo.*

p poco agitato.

130

132

134

136

138

ff

p

Bd.

p

poco a poco cres — — — —

145

146 *poco accelerando*

147

149 *Adagio.*

153 *Tempo Primo.*

157

159

161 *cres ed accellerando.*

163 *molto rall.*

165 *p*
in Tempo.

167 *poco rit.*

The musical score consists of five systems of two staves each. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Measure 159 shows eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings like '8a' and '8a - - -'. Measure 161 includes dynamic instructions 'cres ed accellerando.' and 'molto rall.'. Measure 163 features a dynamic 'p' and 'in Tempo.' Measure 165 has a dynamic 'poco rit.'. Measures 166 and 167 continue the rhythmic patterns established in the previous measures.

16

in Tempo. *marcato principalmente il canto.*

169

ff Fieramente.

171

rall

173 in Tempo.

175

177

p

3 2 1

Rédo. leggieramente, simplicemente.

*

Rédo.

*

Musical score for Grande Fantaisie Dramatique Op.118, par Henri Bertini. The score consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a bass clef. The key signature is A major (three sharps). Measure 179 starts with a forte dynamic. Measure 180 begins with a piano dynamic. Measure 181 shows a change in harmonic rhythm. Measure 182 continues the rhythmic pattern. Measure 183 starts with a forte dynamic and includes a rehearsal mark '8a'. Measure 184 continues the rhythmic pattern. Measure 185 starts with a forte dynamic and includes a measure number '3 2 1'. Measure 186 continues the rhythmic pattern. Measure 187 starts with a piano dynamic.

189

191

193

195

197

199

p leggiero

201

203

205

207

209 Allegro vivace. M. $\text{d} = 126$

213

217

p espres:

221

225

22

252

256

dim.

in Tempo.

260

rall

ff

8a

264

8a

3

3

3

3

8a

3

3

3

3

268

8a

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

272

8^a

276 8^a in Tempo.
p cres.

280 f dim. p cres.

283 f dim p

287 cres. f p

290

294

molto rall.

in Tempo. M. $\text{d} = 116$

appassionato con anima legatissimo.

297

p

301

rit

305

in Tempo.

309

313

317

321

in Tempo.

325

329

333

337

con abbandono.

341

f

345

dim.

349

Tempo primo. M. $\text{d} = 126$

353

Con furore.

357

8^a

361

p

365

8^a

369

Ped. *leggiero.*

373

ff

Ped.

378

4 1 4

382

3 3 3 3

386

dim.

390

rall

ritenuto.

394

poco piu lento. affettuoso. M. $\text{d} = 112$

398

p

*Pd. Con abbandono ed espressione. ** *Pd.*

402

406

p

cres.

410 8^a

ff parlante con abbandono.

414

dim — *rall*

in **Tempo con anima.**

418 8^a

p

422

Ped.

426 8^a

Prestissimo. M. $\text{♩} = 160$

450 *p agitato.* *fz* *fz* *fz*

454 *8a* *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz*

458 *8a* *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz*

462 *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz*

466 *ff Fuoco.*

470

471

472

473

474

475

476

477

478

479

480

481

482

483

484

485

486

487

488

poco rit.

ff

Ped.

*

Ped.

*

491 8^a

495

499 8^a 5 5

503 8^a ff Ped.

506 8^a

509 *8^a* - - - -

513 *ff con furore.* *8^a*

520 *8^a* *fff*

526 *Ped.*

531 *rit* *8^a*