

Rondo a Capriccio

für das Pianoforte
von

L. van BEETHOVEN.
Op. 129.

(Nachgelassenes Werk.) a)

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Allegro vivace. M. M. ♩ = 152-160.

a) Die Opuszahl Op. 129 verdankt sich dem Verleger, nicht dem Autor dieses in seinem Nachlasse vorgefundenen, bisher unverdienter Weise ziemlich unbekannt gebliebenen Werkes. Der Verleger hat mit seiner Beifügung übrigens keinen so anachronistischen Irrthum begangen, als die Beethoven-Glossatoren, unbegreiflicher Weise auch Herr v. Lenz in seinem mit so geistvoller, eingehender Wärme geschriebenen „kritischen Kataloge“ einreden wollen. Letzterer, von uns des Häufigen citirt und dem Spieler empfohlen— bei allen Unvollkommenheiten bleibt sein Buch das beste, das scharfsinnigste, reichhaltigste, gewissermaassen objectivste, das über den grössten aller Tondichter in irgend welcher Sprache verfasst worden ist— sagt mehr als lakonisch=drakonisch: 449 Takte, aus frühester Zeit und ohne Interesse. Eine Blasphemie, würdig des Kalmucken Oulibicheff und höchstens mit der Annahme zu entschuldigen, Herr v. Lenz habe diese wahrhaft klassische Humoreske Beethovens weder lesen gewollt, noch spielen oder hören gekonnt. Dieselbe macht allerdings bedeutendere Ansprüche an die mechanische und z. B. auch rhythmische Ausbildung des sich damit befassenden Spielers, als bei oberflächlichem Durchblättern den Anschein gewinnen mag. Nicht blos übrigens aus diesem äusserlichen Grunde, sondern aus einer Menge charakteristischer Züge, die wir im Verlaufe dem Spieler jedesmal an Ort und Stelle signalisiren werden, sind wir veranlasst, dieses Rondo für ein Parergon der der letzten Schaffensperiode zu halten, und haben es deshalb auch in unsere instructive Ausgabe aufgenommen.

English translation by J. H. Cornell.
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a) The Opus number, Op. 129, owes its existence to the publisher, not to the author of this work, which was found in his effects and which has remained rather unknown, undeservedly. The publisher has, however, by his enumeration, not committed so anachronistic an error as is claimed by the Beethoven-glossarists, also, as is hardly to be believed, by Herr v. Lenz in his critical "catalogue," which has been written with so much genius and penetrating fervor. The last one, frequently cited by us, and recommended to the player (with all its imperfections his book remains the best, the most penetrative, the most copious, as it were, the most objective, which has been written in any language about the greatest of all tone-poets) says more draconically than laconically: 449 bars, from his earliest period, and without interest." A blasphemy, worthy of the Calmuck Oulibicheff, and can at best be excused by assuming that Herr v. Lenz either did not want to read this truly classic humoresque by Beethoven, or had not the opportunity to play it or hear it. It is true that it makes greater demands upon the mechanical and, for instance, also the rhythmical cultivation of the player studying it, than it may appear by a superficial glancing through it. Not, however, only on account of this exterior reason, but also because of many characteristic traits, which we shall every time in due course indicate to the player when they occur, we have been induced to consider this rondo as a "paragon" of the last creative period, and have for this reason, too, included it in our instructive edition.

The musical score consists of six staves for piano. Staff 1 (Treble): 4 measures of eighth-note patterns, dynamic ff. Staff 2 (Bass): 4 measures of eighth-note chords. Staff 3 (Treble): Measures 1-2 show fingerings 2-1, 2-1; measures 3-4 show fingerings 3-2, 3-2. Dynamic dimin. (dimin.) is indicated. Staff 4 (Bass): Measures 1-2 show fingerings 3-2, 3-2; measures 3-4 show fingerings 3-2, 3-2. Dynamic p (pianissimo) is indicated. Staff 5 (Treble): Measures 1-2 show fingerings 1-3, 1-3; measures 3-4 show fingerings 4-2, 3-1. Dynamic ff (fortissimo) is indicated. Staff 6 (Bass): Measures 1-2 show fingerings 1-3, 1-3; measures 3-4 show fingerings 1-3, 1-3. Dynamic a) mf (moderately forte), dynamic p (pianissimo), cresc. (crescendo) is indicated.

a) Die von uns angedeuteten Modifikationen des Anschlages bei Wiederholung derselben Phrase kann der Spieler nach Geschmacksgutdünken auch umkehren. Unsere Absicht bei dergleichen ist nur die, den Spieler zur Vermeidung trockner Einförmigkeit, zum Nüanzentwechsel anzuregen.

a) *The modification of touch at the repetition of the same phrase, indicated by us, may also be inverted by the player according to his standard of taste. Our intention regarding it, is only to stimulate the player to a change of shading, in order to avoid dry monotony.*

The musical score consists of six staves of piano music. Staff 1 (a) starts with a dynamic *f* and a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Staff 2 (1. 2.) follows with a transition, indicated by *dimin.* and *ten.* Staff 3 (dimin. cresc. ten.) shows a dynamic sequence with *dimin.*, *cresc.*, and *ten.* Staff 4 (1. 2. marc.) features a march-like section with *marc.* Staff 5 shows a crescendo. Staff 6 (b) concludes with a dynamic *p* and a *scherzando* section.

- a) Ein so energetischer Rhythmus in der Begleitung darf sicher nicht zu den Styleigentümlichkeiten der ersten Schaffensperiode Beethovens gezählt werden können.
 b) Durch eine kurze Pause (von der Dauer eines Viertels) wird die Wiederkehr des Themas zierlicher und pikanter eingeleitet, als durch ein *ritardando* in den Übergangstakten. Zugleich erscheint sie uns dem humoristischen Charakter des Stücks entsprechender.

- a) So energetical a rhythm in the accompaniment could certainly not be considered as belonging to the peculiarities of style of Beethoven's first creative period.
 b) The returning of the theme will be introduced in a more neat and piquant way by a short rest (the duration of a quarter-note) than by a *ritardando* in the transition measures. It appears to us, at the same time, as better corresponding with the humoristic character of the piece.

cresc.

f

rinf.

dimin.

fp

p

cresc.

ri - tur - dan - do

a) Die Wahl des Durmodus der parallelen Molltonart (oder der kleinen Unterterz) für diesen Zwischensatz gilt uns als ein neuer Beweis für die Annahme, eine Arbeit späterer Zeit vor uns zu haben. In einer früheren Schaffensepoche würde der Autor sicher *Es dur* statt *E dur* genommen haben. Die entfernteren Tonartsverwandtschaften hat Beethoven erst in späterer Zeit cultivirt, z. B. in den ersten Sätzen von Op. 97 und Op. 106.

b) Dieser Gruss an Mendelssohns Zukunft muss mit grösstmöglicher Elastizität des Anschlags gespielt werden.

a) By choosing the Major-modes of the parallel Minor-key (or of the Minor-third below) for this episode, we are given a new proof for the assumption that we have before us a work of the later period. In an earlier creative period, the author would certainly have taken E-flat-major instead of E-major. The remoter relationship of keys was cultivated by Beethoven only later on, for instance, in the first movements respectively of Op. 97 and Op. 106.

b) This greeting to the future of Mendelssohn, must be played with the utmost elasticity of touch.

Tempo I. $\text{d} = 152.$

a) Der Spieler rufe sich hier die bekannte Veranlassung zu dieser Humoreske ins Gedächtniss zurück. Auf dem Originale stand von des Meisters Hand die Überschrift: Die Wuth über den verlorenen Groschen, ausgetobt in einer Caprice. An dieser Stelle glaubt man fast die Papiere von dem Tische weg durch einanderfliegen zu sehen, unter denen nach dem verlorenen Gegenstande hastig gesucht wird. Gewiss, der allmächtige Genius dieses Meisters hätte auch eine *Opera buffa* schreiben können, wenn er dazu äussere und innere Veranlassung gefunden.

a) The player should recall here the well known cause which called forth this Humoresque. The original contained the heading, written in the Master's hand: "The rage on account of the lost Groschen, vented in a Caprice." At this place, one imagines almost that one sees the papers flying away from the table, amongst which the lost article has been furiously searched for. It is certain the almighty genius of this Master would have been able to write also an opera *Buffe*, if he had found an outward or inward occasion for it.

a) Man fasse die  ins Auge. Das ist etwas Anderes als die gäng und gäbe umgekehrte Folge aus *A*s *dur* nach *D* *dur* und zeugt aufs Neue für unsere chronologische Ansicht. Es fällt uns hierbei ein analoges Exempel aus der *C* *dur* Messe Op. 86. bei, wo Beethoven in ähnlicher Weise (durch Umkehrung einer verbrauchten Folge) eine neue modulatorische Progression entdeckt hat, von einer so gewaltigen Kühnheit, dass kein Componist seitdem bis heute eine Nachbildung derselben gewagt hat.

a) Observe well the modulatory progressions: 
This is something quite different from the usual inverted progression from A-flat major to D-major, and proves anew the correctness of our chronological opinion. We are reminded here of an analogous example from the Mass in C-major, Op. 86, where Beethoven has in a similar way discovered a new modulatory progression (by the inversion of a trite progression), which exhibits such imposing boldness that no composer since (up to date) has ventured an imitation of it. 

a) Da wir im Verlaufe dieses Stücks noch mehreren „Ungewittern“ begegnen, so ist es ratsam, das Darstellungsmittel der Beschleunigung des Tempo sparsam anzuwenden, um eine fortwährende Steigerung zu ermöglichen. Der Herausgeber spielt desshalb die folgende Episode noch ziemlich streng (obwohl nicht starr) im Haupttempo, und bedient sich hauptsächlich nur des Wechsels dynamischer Schattirung zur Belebung des Vortrags: die herabsteigende Figuration in jeder Hand (also alternirend) jedesmal ein wenig abnehmen lassend, die aufsteigende an Kraft zunehmend. Pedalgebrauch ist statthaft—unter Wahrung der Reinheit der Harmonie, wie sich versteht.

b) In Anbetracht, dass, wenn das Rondo zu Lebzeiten des Autors veröffentlicht worden wäre, derselbe das Manuscript sicher noch einmal vorher einer Revision unterzogen haben würde, schlagen wir folgende Änderung des Basses vor, welche geeignet erscheint, der Figuration die im vorliegenden Text hier innenwohnende Lahm-

heit zu bemehmnen:

Durch die in den letzten drei Noten verdeutlichte Uebernahme des Anfangs der langen Skala der rechten Hand seitens der Linken, wird ersterer der den Fluss derselben beeinträchtigende Duodezimensprung erspart.

a) As we shall meet in the course of this piece several "thunder-storms," it will be advisable to employ sparingly the device of tempo-acceleration employed as a representation, in order to make possible a continual intensified acceleration. The Editor, for this reason, plays the following episode still rather strictly, (although not rigidly) in the principal tempo, and only makes use principally of the change of dynamic shading, in order to animate the delivery, permitting the descending figure in each hand (therefore alternating) each time decrease a little in power, and the ascending figure increase a little. The use of the pedal is permissible, of course, while retaining the purity of the harmony.

b) Considering, that if the rondo had been published during the lifetime of the author, he would certainly have submitted the manuscript once more to a revision, we propose the following alteration of the bass, which appears calculated to deprive the figuration of the lameness contained in the text before us,

thus:

By the left hand taking the beginning of the long scale of the right hand, which has been illustrated in the last three notes, the right hand will be spared the leap of the twelfth, which is prejudicial to its flow.

legato

sf *dimin.*

cresc. *dimin.*

Tranquillo

a) *p dolce*

poco rit. *raddolcendo*

b) *ten.* *ten.*

ten. *ten.* *cresc.* *ten.* *ten.* *sfz*

a) Die Selbständigkeit der einzelnen Stimmen in diesen melodischen und rhythmischen Imitationen, welche auch sonst harten Dissonanzen wie z. B. im 9ten und 10ten Takte Wohlklang verleiht, muss jedem Beethoven-kenner aufs Neue überzeugen, dass er keine Jugendarbeit vor sich hat.

b) Man trenne jedesmal die beiden Achtel von dem darauf folgenden Viertel, jedoch natürlich ohne auffällige Absichtlichkeit.

a) The independence of the separate voices in these melodic and rhythmical imitations, which also otherwise imparts euphony to harsh dissonances, as, for instance, in the 9th and 10th measures, must convince anew every connoisseur of Beethoven that he has not before him a youthful work.

b) Separate every time the two eighths from the succeeding quarter, of course, without any very evident intention.

a) Bei zartestem Anschlage muss diese Stelle doch mit einer koboldartigen Geschäftigkeit und Behendigkeit gespielt werden, die dem Charakter des vom Componisten — vgl. Anm. a) zu Seite 6 verkündeten „Anstoßens“ auch in ihrer Art entspricht.

a) With the most tender touch this place must, nevertheless, be played yet with a “gnome-like” bustling and agility, corresponding to the character of the “venting one’s rage” announced by the composer — see remark a), page 6.

meno legato
cresc.

a)

b)

menos

Rit.

*

3

1

a) Man hüte sich, zu zeitig *fortissimo* zu spielen: die Ansprüche der folgenden Seiten an die physische Kraft des Spielers sind sehr bedeutend. Für die Figur der rechten Hand möchte eine Repetition so mancher Studie aus Clementi's *Gradus ad Parnassum* (Ausgabe von Carl Tausig) eine zuträgliche Vorbereitung sein.

b) Da die Bewegung unter keiner Bedingung erlah-

men darf, so schlägt der Herausgeber ermittelten Fingern folgende Erleichterung vor:

natürlich muss aber die aushelfende Linke ihre fragmentarische Beteiligung an der Figur mit leichtestem Anschlag ausführen.

a) Take care not to play fortissimo too soon: the demands of the following pages upon the physical power of the player are very large. A repetition of many a study from Clementi's *Gradus ad Parnassum* (Edition of Carl Tausig) would be an appropriate preparation for the figure of the right hand.

b) As the movement must not become impeded under

any condition, the Editor proposes to wearied fingers the following facilitation:

of course, the assisting left hand must execute its fragmentary participation in the figure with the lightest touch.

a) 160.
a tempo

Tranquillo senza slentare

p *cresc.*

tranquillo *ten.*

a) Für die natürlich gegen das Vorhergehende bedeutend zu mässigende Bewegung hat jetzt wiederum höchste Kraft (mit Leichtigkeit verbunden—die Akkorde sind mit emporgehobener Hand zu werfen) einzutreten.

a) In place of the movement, which is, of course, to be much moderated in comparison with what has preceded, the highest power has now to enter again—combined, however, with lightness—the chords have to be thrown off with the uplifted hand.

The musical score consists of six staves of piano music. Staff 1 (top) starts with a dynamic **f**, followed by measures with **Led.** and asterisks (*). Staff 2 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. Staff 3 (top) begins with a dynamic **f**, followed by measures with **cresc.** and **dimin.**. Staff 4 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. Staff 5 (top) begins with a dynamic **p**, followed by measures with **ten.** and **1 2 1**. Staff 6 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. Staff 7 (top) begins with a dynamic **p**, followed by measures with **ten.** and **1 2 1**. Staff 8 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. Staff 9 (top) begins with a dynamic **p**, followed by measures with **ten.** and **1 2 1**. Staff 10 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. Staff 11 (top) begins with a dynamic **p**, followed by measures with **ten.** and **1 2 1**. Staff 12 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. Staff 13 (top) begins with a dynamic **p**, followed by measures with **ten.** and **1 2 1**. Staff 14 (bottom) has a dynamic **p**. 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a) Der vorhergehende Canon, in welchem das erschöpfte Wüthen allmälig der Rückkehr der Besinnung zu weichen anfängt, darf im Tempo noch nicht gemäßigt werden, obwohl er ohne alle Unruhe zu spielen ist. Erst jetzt hat die Reflexion ihre Obermacht wiedergewonnen; das von uns vorgezeichnete *moderato* ist auch aus technischen Gründen notwendig, da diese Stelle, mit klarster Durchsichtigkeit gespielt, zu den allerschwierigsten des Stückes gehört und mit einem anderen als unserem „ausgeklügelten“ Fingersatze absolut nicht auszuführen ist.

b) Man verwechsle nicht:  (g Vorhalt des Leittons) (beim Dominantakkord) mit:  (fis Wechselnote zur Tonika) Das ist ebenfalls eine Feinheit letzter Periode.

a) The preceding Canon, in which the exhausted rage commences gradually to give way to the return of consciousness, must not yet be moderated in the tempo, although it must be played without any disquietude. Only now reflection has gained its sway: the *moderato* prescribed by us is necessary, even for technical reasons; as this place, if played with the clearest transparency, belongs to one of the most difficult in the piece, and cannot be executed with any other than our "studied out" fingering.

b) Do not confound  (g, suspension of the leading tone of the dominant chord) with  (f-sharp, changing note to the tonic, at the triad.) This is again a "nicety" of the last period.