

**Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)**, a German composer, grew up in Bonn where he studied violin and piano. Later, he studied briefly in Vienna with Haydn for about a year. Beethoven earned his living from the sale of compositions and from teaching. In his early thirties, he experienced a hearing loss which later deteriorated into total deafness. He grew morose and suspicious and had frequent outbursts of temper. A prolific composer, Beethoven wrote 32 piano sonatas, five piano concertos, one violin concerto, an opera, a great deal of chamber music, and many other works.

# Für Elise

STYLE: CLASSICAL

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

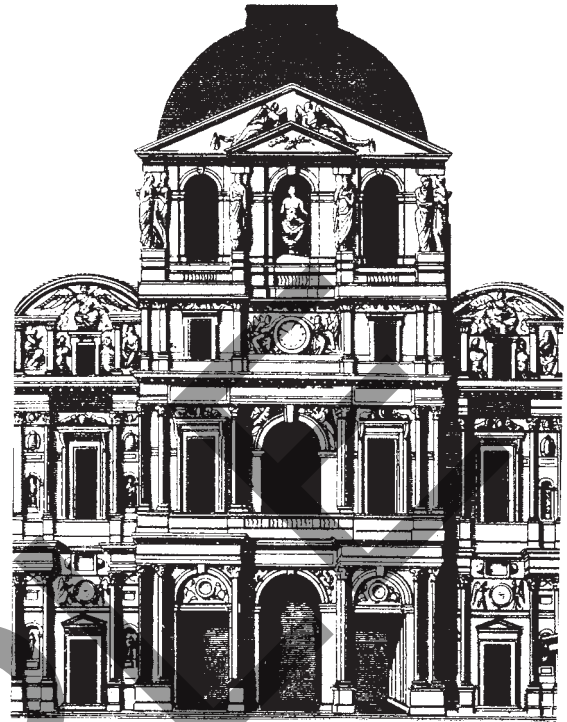
*Poco moto*

The musical score for 'Für Elise' is presented in a standard piano format with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/8. The piece begins with a *pp* (pianissimo) dynamic and a *Poco moto* tempo. The first system (measures 1-4) features a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a simple accompaniment. Measure numbers 5, 10, 15, and 20 are indicated in boxes at the start of their respective systems. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *dim.* (diminuendo). Pedal markings include *Ped. simile*. Fingering numbers (1-5) are provided for many notes. The score concludes with a first ending bracket and a repeat sign.

# THE ROMANTIC PERIOD



**"Stoke-by-Nayland"**  
by John Constable (1836). Courtesy of  
The Art Institute of Chicago.



**The Papal Cancellaria in Rome**

## Romantic Style

The Romantic period dating from about 1820-1900 was a time of personal expression. The impact of the French Revolution (1789-1794) set the stage for freedom and free-thinking individuals who set out in different artistic directions. Even in dress expressive beauty was portrayed. Women wore hoop skirts and decorative clothing with lace and/or embroidery. Men wore ruffled shirts, wide bow ties, and elegant clothes. Strong emphasis on emotion and imagination is found in literature, art, and architecture.

## Romantic Keyboard Music

The music of the Romantic period often contains warm, beautiful melodies (so tuneful that many have been made into popular songs).

from *The Merry Farmer* by Schumann



The accompaniment often colors and supports the melody.

from *A Little Song* by Schumann



Frequently, expressive indications such as *espressivo* (expressively) and *dolce* (sweetly), etc. are used to aid the performer in interpreting the beautiful melodies. Color is added to the piano by more frequent use of pedal; pedal indications were used a great deal by Romantic composers.

The French word nocturne means night piece; it is a descriptive word used to depict the calm beauty of the night. The name was first used on piano pieces by John Field (1782-1837), an Irish pianist and composer. However, Chopin adopted it and wrote beautiful nocturnes with expressive melodies often accompanied by arpeggiated chordal figures.

## Nocturne

STYLE: ROMANTIC

JAMES BASTIEN

Andante con moto

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning of the first staff. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one flat, and a 3/4 time signature. Dynamics such as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *espressivo*, and *p* (piano) are indicated. Fingerings are shown with numbers 1-5. Articulation marks like slurs and accents are used throughout. The score includes a large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'SAMPLE' diagonally across the page.

System 1 (Measures 1-3): Treble clef starts with a half note G4 (finger 1), followed by quarter notes A4 (finger 4), B4 (finger 4), and C5 (finger 4). Bass clef starts with a half note G3 (finger 5), followed by quarter notes A3 (finger 2), B3 (finger 2), and C4 (finger 4). Dynamics: *mp*, *espressivo*, *p*. Markings: *legato*.

System 2 (Measures 4-6): Treble clef has a half note G4 (finger 1), quarter notes A4 (finger 1), B4 (finger 1), and C5 (finger 1). Bass clef has quarter notes G3 (finger 4), A3 (finger 4), B3 (finger 4), and C4 (finger 4). Dynamics: *mp*. Markings: *legato*.

System 3 (Measures 7-9): Treble clef has quarter notes G4 (finger 1), A4 (finger 4), B4 (finger 2), and C5 (finger 2). Bass clef has quarter notes G3 (finger 5), A3 (finger 2), B3 (finger 4), and C4 (finger 1). Dynamics: *mp*. Markings: *legato*.

System 4 (Measures 10-12): Treble clef has quarter notes G4 (finger 1), A4 (finger 2), B4 (finger 2), and C5 (finger 1). Bass clef has quarter notes G3 (finger 4), A3 (finger 1), B3 (finger 5), and C4 (finger 3). Dynamics: *mp*. Markings: *legato*.



**Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)**, a German composer and pianist, was born in Hamburg of well-to-do parents. When Felix was three, his parents moved to Berlin where his schooling began with private tutors. He first performed in public at the age of nine; he began to compose at the age of 12. Mendelssohn wrote his famous overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* when he was 17. He traveled extensively through England, Scotland, and the continent. His trips inspired him to write the descriptive overture, *Fingal's Cave*, and his *Symphony No. 3* ("Scotch") while in Scotland. A visit to Italy resulted in the *Symphony No. 4* ("Italian"). In 1829 Mendelssohn conducted Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* which was the first performance of a major work by Bach since his death almost 80 years earlier. The result was a revival of interest in Bach's music. Mendelssohn's interest in choral music inspired him to compose the oratorios *St. Paul* (1836), and for presentation in England, *Elijah* (1846). Mendelssohn was an extremely busy musician acting as a pianist, conductor of orchestras in Dusseldorf and Leipzig, and founder and dean of the Leipzig Conservatory, where he taught piano and composition. His health was never robust, and these taxing musical activities plus a whirlwind social life strained his constitution severely. He literally wore himself out and died of apoplexy at the age of 38. He was a prolific composer: his works include orchestral music, the *Violin Concerto in E Minor* (1844), piano concertos, choral and vocal music, chamber music, organ works, and well-known piano works such as the *Andante and Rondo Capriccioso*, *Variations Sérieuses* and eight books of *Songs Without Words*.

## Romanze

STYLE: ROMANTIC

FELIX MENDELSSOHN

Andante

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a treble and bass clef. The first system begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings (5, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 3, 1, 5) and slurs. The second system also begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fingerings (5, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 3, 1, 5) and slurs. The third system begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes fingerings (3, 2, 4, 2, 4, 1, 2, 1) and slurs. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.