

Joseph HAYDN (1732-1809)

German Dance in A Hob.IX:12/5

Haydn composed these German dances late in 1792, and originally scored them for a small orchestra, evidently with a winter ball in mind: pairs of flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, horns, trumpets and violins could all stand wherever they were placed, with a bass and a timpani player probably tucked away in a corner. 'Tedeschi di ballo' he subtitled them, and gave them a little coda to round off the set in style.

Playing tips: It's always good to decide on the final tempo of a piece before you begin to learn it. We have suggested a moderate pace of 116 bpm, but you may want to begin your practice at a very slow tempo, learning hands separately. You don't want errors (that is, wrong notes!) to creep into your practice. Pedal is not required. **Take a look at the technical tips within the score.**

Count the tempo silently for two or three bars before you begin.

For the RH arpeggio figure, have the thumb ready and waiting to strike the A at the beginning of bar 4. It needs to shift quickly under the hand. Make sure not to tense the thumb.

The key is A major (three sharps).

♩ = 116

Make sure to depress the three-note chords at the same time. Not easy, especially when playing softly.

The crotchet chords should sound even, with a slight emphasis on the first beat of the bar. They should be 'tenuto' in articulation: not joined together, but not too clipped either.

The arpeggio figure appears again, but now there's no need to put the thumb underneath.

Repeat the first 8 bars.

Dynamics slightly stronger now.

Keep the dotted minim E sharp held for the duration of the bar.

Lift the LH off the keyboard for the two crotchet rests.

Again, keep the dotted minim held for the whole bar.

Both hands are moving around the keyboard quite a bit here. Practice slowly, hands separately.

Lift the hands from the keyboard together.

Lift the hand on the rests.