# CHILDHOOD SCENES

(KINDERSCENEN) Op. 15

By

## ROBERT SCHUMANN



REVISED EDITION WITH FINGERING, PEDALING, PHRAS-ING, AND INSTRUCTIVE ANNOTATIONS ON INTERPRETATION AND METHOD OF STUDY By LEOPOLD GODOWSKY

FORM AND STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS By EDGAR STILLMAN KELLEY

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, GENERAL INFORMATION AND GLOSSARY By EMERSON WHITHORNE

(Old No. 715) New No. 909



St. Louis

London

No. 909

ROGRESSIVE SERIES COMPOSITIO

Catalog

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH-ROBERT ALEXANDER SCHUMANN.

Born at Zwickau, Saxony, June 8, 1810. Died at Endenich, near Bonn, July 29, 1856.

OBERT SCHUMANN may have inherited part of his literary talent from his father, who was a bookseller, publisher and book-lover, but his early desire to express his emotions in music can be explained in no such manner, for none of Schumann's ancestors appear to have been musically gifted. Even at the age of seven the boy was attempting to compose. This is not the usual legend attached to the name of genius, but one of Schumann's own statements.

We find him, in 1825, studying law at the University of Leipzig and later at Heidelberg. His interest in the law was not great; indeed, the location of Heidelberg, with its open gates to Italy and Switzer-land, had much to do with Schumann's selection of the picturesque old town as a place of study.

Then his friend Rosen was also studying at Heidelberg, and these two sympathetic companions made interesting tours in Switzerland and Saxony, besides many short excursions into the surrounding country. Caraliss

Schumann may have been desultory in his law studies, but he was not idle. His days were spent in playing the piano and his evenings were passed with musical friends.

He finally realized, in the summer of 1830, that his whole talent and ambition lay in the direction of music; so he returned to Leipzig, where he studied the pianoforte with the famous pedagogue, Friedrich Wieck. It was four years later that Schumann's literary and critical career began. There was great need of a strong, well-edited musical journal in Germany at this time. As Schumann aptly put it, "the days of reciprocal compliments were dying out," and it was the moment to strike at Phil-istinism in art.

So, on April 3rd, 1834, the "Neue Zeitschrift für Musik" made its first appearance. It was then edited by Robert Schumann, Friedrich Wieck, Ludwig Schunke (who died in the following year), and Julius Knorr. For ten years Schumann was the moving spirit of this publication, during which period he established a new era in musical criticism.

His style was individual and essentially poetic; he wrote short, vivid sentences which suggested much more than the prosaic writing of contemporary critics. Moreover, he possessed a distinct flair for the discovery of talent. He was the first to bring Chopin and Brahms into the limelight in Germany.

Notwithstanding his editorial duties, Schumann composed a great deal; indeed, most of his piano works belong to this period. The "Childhcod Scenes" were written between the years 1836-1839, and the opus number shows that they were composed contemporaneously with the F minor Sonata. They are retrospective in mood and lyric in style, as were most of his early piano works. One might call them poesies d'occasion without casting any reflection upon their merits.

The latter part of Schumann's life is too pathetic to dwell upon at length. On February 27th, 1854, in one of his melancholy moods, he threw himself into the Rhine; he was rescued and it was necessary to take him to the private asylum of Dr. Richarz at Endenich, near Bonn, where he died July 29th, 1856.

Ano. 715

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#### KINDERSCENEN

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FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS: Schumann shows not only his great mastery of musical structure by accomplishing so much with such modest means, but also demonstrates the great elasticity of the smaller forms. For this reason alone these charming pieces are worth studying, as the briefest outline of each will demonstrate.

POETIC IDEA. Childhood scenes are, according to Schumann's own words, not pieces for children they are retrospective impressions of the dreamland called childhood. The thirteen miniature masterworks, of which No. 7 (Reverie) enjoys universal popularity, are highly poetic pictures, reminiscent of the earliest impressions from child-world, fancifully reproduced by a mature and imaginative mind. The pieces represent varied moods, created by an idealized recollection of a far-distant and cherished past.

The "Kinderscenen" (Childhood Scenes) were composed by Schumann in the year 1838, at the age of 28.

#### OF FOREIGN LANDS AND PEOPLE.

METHOD OF STUDY.

#### M. M. about J : 58

. . .

b) The metronomic indications (speed regulations) throughout the series of pieces are attributed to Schumann. With few exceptions, the *tempo* is incorrectly given, owing either to a defective, improperly adjusted metronome, or to the composer's incomprehensible lack of judgment in deciding the speed of every number. All the editor's suggestions for speed are not arbitrary, but approximate.

c) The melody constitutes the most prominent part of the three voices, the fundamental notes coming next in importance, while the middle voice, which is subdivided between both hands, is the most subdued part of the three.

The melody should be played with a round and modulating touch, with simplicity and unaffected sentiment, neither dry nor over-sentimental. It is telling a tale of distant countries and strange people.

The fundamentals have to be heard distinctly, yet without over-emphasis.

The triplets in the middle voice need special attention; care must be taken to have them very even, rhythmically and dynamically, and softer than any other voice. For that reason the thumbs of both hands need particular training.

d) After every ritardando the first tempo is taken up again and every new ritardando starts with an a tempo (first tempo). The  $\bigwedge$  (fermata) is the culminating point of the ritardando and one should not dwell on the hold ( $\bigwedge$ ) too long.

e) The first time this last measure should be played with a very slight *ritardando*; the second time the editor would advise a gradual delay with a hold at the end, thus:



There should always be a slight interruption (pause) between every number-silence is the perspective of sound.

#### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Small three-part song form. Key of G major.

Part I (m. 1-8) is in four sections of two measures each. Section 2 is an exact repetition of section 1; section 3 is derived from section 1; section 4 leads to a complete cadence in the tonic.

Part II (m. 9-14) begins in relative minor. In m. 10 there is an incomplete cadence in the tonic major; in m. 12 there is a deceptive cadence leading from the dominant of the relative minor to the tonic major.

Part III (m. 15-22) is the same as part I.

e)

#### 2. A CURIOUS STORY.

#### METHOD OF STUDY.

a) M. M.  $d_{=112}$  is about correct, though  $d_{=116}$  would seem more appropriate to the editor.

b) The first part of this story is knightly in character. The rhythm is suggestive of a Mazurka. A very decisive rhythm is essential to the first part, while the second part should be played with expression and rhythmical flexibility. Care should be taken to express the rests (to have them really silent) and give full value to them—rather too much than too little. At the repetition of the first part, p instead of mf is effective.

c) The editor recommends the following execution of this and similar places:



d) When this part is repeated, it is advisable to allow the left hand to come out more prominently in the unisono passages.

f) The first time only a slight retard, the second time a gradual slackening, leading to a slow ending, as follows:



The next piece should not begin before the full expiration of the last measure.

FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form. Key of D major.

Part I (m. 1-8). There is a complete cadence in the tonic at m. 4. There is a modulation to the key of the dominant in m. 7 leading to a complete cadence in that key in m. 8.

*Part II* extends from the last beat of m. 8 to the last beat of m. 12. This begins in the minor dominant with a modulation at m. 11 to the subdominant, then to the tonic in m. 12. The last beat of this measure introduces part III.

Part III (m. 13-20) is the same as part I until m. 18, when it takes a final turn into the tonic.

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#### KINDERSCENEN

#### 3. CATCH ME.

#### METHOD OF STUDY.

#### a) M. M. about J: 108

b) A very sparkling piece, humorous and characteristic. Every sfp has to be strongly emphasized and the quarter-notes well tied to the following sixteenths, all sixteenths very even and clear. A crisp staccato is essential. Care should be taken to discriminate between sf and >, sf being a considerably stronger accent.

c) Attention must be called to the C sharp, which has been erroneously changed in some editions to C natural—a proceeding which cannot be sufficiently condemned, as it shows very poor harmonic discrimination and an undesirable intention of the editors to tamper with the original text.

d) To end abruptly, without rit.

#### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form, with parts II and III repeated conjointly. Key of B minor.

Part I (m. 1-8) is written in four sections of two measures each, based on the same thematic material. There is a complete cadence in the tonic at m. 4. M. 5-8 repeats 1-4 exactly. M. 5-8 repeats m. 1-4 exactly.

Part II (m. 9-16) is in the key of the sixth degree (G major). At m. 13 there is a modulation into the key of the second degree with the root lowered (Neapolitan sixth). Notice the abrupt but beautiful modulation by which the return to the tonic key is effected in m. 15-16.

Part III (m. 17-30) is the same as the first half or forephrase of part I.

## 4. PLEADING CHILD.



#### METHOD OF STUDY.

a) M. M. about = 108

b) The melody very tender, expressive and *legato*, the sixteenths very even and subdued, the fundamentals clear but not obtrusive. The difference between p and pp should be carefully observed throughout the piece.

c) All ritardando's begin with the original tempo (a tempo) and one should always slacken the speed very gradually.

d) Ending the piece, as the composer does, on the dominant seventh, the hearer is impressed with the symbolized expression of an unfulfilled desire.

FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Small three-part song form. Key of D major.

Part I (m. 1-8) consists of two sections, m. 1-2 and m. 5--6, each being repeated exactly. (See comments in "Method of Study.") The first section closes on the dominant, the second with a plagal cadence on the tonic.

Part II consists of a two-measure section (m. 9-10), beginning in the relative minor and closing on the dominant. This section is also repeated (m. 11-12).

*Part III* is the same as part I with a significant modification. The last measures (*ritardando*) are prolonged by one measure, and a seventh is added in the upper voice. The effect produced is like that of closing a poem with a question mark instead of a period.

Some theorists would call m. 9-17 the second part.

#### 5. PERFECT HAPPINESS.

#### METHOD OF STUDY.

#### a) M. M. about = 80

b) This number is overflowing with contentment, bubbling over with inner joy. The following way of writing it would have been clearer to the interpreter:



c) The melody in the right hand, as also the initating voice in the left hand, is to be played expressively and very *legato*. The phrasing here, as everywhere else, should receive adequate attention.

d) The fundamental octaves, whenever they go up or down chromatically, should be slightly underlined.

e) The "Da Capo" indicated by the composer is entirely unjustified.

#### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

#### Two-part song form. Key of D major.

Part I, m. 1—16. M. 9—16 is an exact repetition of m. 1—8. The first seven melody notes form the thematic material for the entire piece. Notice the thematic development (m. 1) of the motive in the dominant in the right hand; m. 2, the motive in the tonic in the left hand; then later in m. 5, the motive in the dominant in the left hand; m. 6, the motive in the tonic in the right hand. M. 5—6 form a free inversion of m. 1—2.

Part II, m. 17-24. Notice the beautiful and surprising modulation-from the tonic major to the relative major of tonic minor-with which this part enters. The return to the tonic is effected in m. 21-22, in which key the piece closes. Observe the sequence in contrary motion in m. 22-23.

#### 6. AN IMPORTANT EVENT.

METHOD OF STUDY.

a) M. M. about . 112

b) All chords, except the tied chords, non legato, with a fresh impulse from the arm.

The piece should be played in a heavy, ponderous way, with undue importance and pompousness. All even eighth-notes of the left hand should be equally heavy and non legato.

c) The heavy accent  $\wedge$  is a combination of an agogic (time) and a dynamic (strength) accent.

d) This must end abruptly.

Before beginning the next number, a longer silence is recommended.

#### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYS.S.

Part I (m. 1-8) consists of a two-measure motive four times announced. Beginning in the upper register and constantly descending, it closes in the dominant  $\varepsilon$  nd tonic alternately in measures 2, 4, 6 and 8.

Part II (m. 9-16) is a period grouped as follows: 1-1-2-4. Observe that, inasmuch as the first part contained so much of the dominant (E) and dominant of the dominant (B), this second portion is strongly colored by the subdominant (G major) and the subdominant of the subdominant (C major).

Part III is formed from a repetition of part I, m. 17-24.

#### 7. DREAMING (REVERIE).

#### METHOD OF STUDY.

#### a) M. M. about J = 54

One of the most inspired of Schumann's short compositions.

b) For smaller hands the editor advises the following adjustment of both hands in this and all similar places:



C)

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d) All the imitations should be clearly and expressively delivered.

e) The chord should not be broken. It is very effective to have a sudden p follow the preceding in this as well as on a few previous occasions of a similar character.

f) The *fermata* quite long.

To do full justice to this gem of mood-pictures, the interpreter must possess a very sensitive and expressive touch, a deep and tender sentiment, a poetic and imaginative mind.

### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form. Key of F major.

*Cart I*, m. 1-8. The forephrase closes with a half cadence on the dominant; the afterphrase terminates with a complete cadence in the key of the dominant.

Part II, m. 9—16. The forephrase begins in the tonic, closing in the key of second degree (G minor) n m. 12. The afterphrase begins in the subdominant and closes in the relative minor (D minor).

*Part III* (m. 17-24) is practically the same as part I, excepting that the afterphrase concludes with the authentic cadence in the tonic. Note also the surprise afforded by the major ninth chord dominant of C major) in m. 22 at the hold, which takes the place of the dominant seventh chord of D minor in m. 6.

#### 8. AT THE FIRESIDE.

METHOD OF STUDY.

#### a) M. M. about J = 108

b) The melody should be played in a simple, unaffected manner, conveying the impression of a lain, uneventful narrative, told amidst comfort and ease. As in the previous number, wide stretches

could be avoided by interchanging the hands in such a way, that the lowest voice of the right hand be given to the left and highest voice of the left hand be transferred to the right, both hands playing the interchanged voices with the thumbs.

c) In a like manner, the lower voice of the right hand and the upper voice of the left hand could be interchanged, resulting in a more convenient position for both hands.

d) From here it must begin to diminish.

#### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form. Key of F major.

Here the tonality and distribution of the chords, the length of the various members, and even the bits of the melody are so akin to the preceding that the essential differences are worthy of note.

Part I, m. 1-8. Both forephrase and afterphrase are identical, and both close in the tonic.

Part II (m. 9-16) is above a dominant organ-point, the afterphrase, m. 13-16, presenting a sequence of the forephrase a tone higher.

Part III is the same as part I, except that in m. 17 the first theme appears an octave lower for one measure only, and is altered at the end so as to terminate with a full cadence in the tonic (m. 24).

*Coda.* As the movement of this piece is more animated than the preceding, parts II and III are repeated to give the necessary length, but, in order to give a sense of completeness, a Coda is required. This consists of an elaborated cadence on the tonic (m. 25–28) repeated an octave lower.

#### 9. THE KNIGHT OF THE HOBBY-HORSE.

METHOD OF STUDY.

- b) Very rhythmically, with sharp accents, hard and rugged.
- c) The lower voice of the right hand to be brought out emphatically.
- d) The lower voice of the left hand legato. From mp to the \_\_\_\_\_ somewhat softer.
- e) The left hand to come out prominently.

. .

f) To end abruptly! A short intermission (of at least two measures) is indispensable.

FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form. Key of G major.

Part I, m. 1-8. Note the persistence of the dominant organ-point in the bass, causing the period to close on a chord of the sixth and fourth.

Part II, m. 9-16. Here we see how a climax is reached by the simple means of a descending bass, reaching its lowest point at m. 17, when part III enters triumphantly.

Part III is the same as part I with a different distribution of the voices. The melody heard in the upper voice in m. 1---4, then in the alto in m. 5---8, is now found in the alto and tenor, while the bass takes a tonic organ-point.

#### 10. ALMOST TOO SERIOUS.

METHOD OF STUDY.

#### M. M. about = 52

b) The melody to be played with a sad and serious expression. Disconsolate gloom is the keynote of this tone-picture.



c) All the fermata (  $\frown$  ) to be well sustained.



e) The melody to be brought out clearly, but not loudly.

### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form. Key of G sharp minor.

Although the form is the same as that of the preceding number, the length of the various members is quite different, as may be seen by comparing the two outlines.

Part I (m. 1-8) closes in the relative major.

Part II (m. 9-16) closes in the minor dominant (D sharp minor). A return brings us to the major dominant (m. 17-21).

Part III is part I extended (m. 22-34), closing in the relative major. Part II appears again in m. 35-42, with the same extension or return as before (m. 43-47). Part III is part I extended to ten measures with a pronounced close in the tonic (m. 48-57). It will be noticed that both numbers 9 and 10 are constructed by the grouping of one-measure members, a procedure peculiar to Schumann, but with which he produced remarkable effects.

#### 11. FRIGHTENING.

METHOD OF STUDY.

a) M. M. about J. 72

### b) M. M. about d = 126

This tone-picture is full of contrasts. The first section commences with a plaintive melody, which, after the first two chromatic measures, assumes, in the following diatonic measures, a more placid character. The second section is uncanny and gruesome, suggestive of demons and witches. The third section is a reiteration of the first. The first four measures of the fourth section are the only measures in the whole piece which are full of energy, strength and sharp accents. The following four measures are again plaintive and melancholy. After a few repetitions of the first and second sections, the composition ends in a quiet, tranquil manner, thus symbolizing the calming of the agitated mind and excited imagination of the child.

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#### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Irregular. Key of E minor.

This piece might be regarded as a series of periods and phrases, or as a very short three-part song form with the germ of a trio. This would give the following outline:

Main theme, part I (m. 1-8), closing in the relative major (repeated).

Part II, m. 9-12. Tonic (repeated).

Part III, m. 13-20. Same as part I (with no repetition).

Trio. (Rudimentary.) Part I, m. 21-24; part II, m. 25-28.

Main theme, part I, m. 29-36; part II, m. 37-40 (repeated); part III, m. 41-48.

#### 12. THE CHILD FALLING ASLEEP.

METHOD OF STUDY.

a) M. M. about 1: 84

b) To be played with great delicacy and tenderness. This is one of the most valuable and exquisite numbers of the entire set. Only lovers of children can realize the inherent tenderness of its strains.

- c) All the voices have to be carefully sustained.
- d) The unresolved ending suggests the unexpected and sudden falling asleep of the child.
- e) The "A" should be played pp and at the end of the (fermata).

FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Irregular. Key of E minor.

Here Schumann quite rightly reverts to his method of building up periods by means of repeating short motives; for here the reiteration of the rocking rhythm of the opening measure is truly suggestive of those half-conscious moments preceding sleep. In regard to its form, this piece may be analyzed in two ways. The more obvious would be to regard it as consisting of four eight-measure periods, the first in E minor, the second in E major, the third in B minor and G major, the fourth a recurrence of the first, amplified into a coda with new treatment. Another way would be to regard it as a three-part song form, in which the forephrase of part I (m. 1—4) in E minor, and the afterphrase in E major (m. 9—12), are respectively repeated.

Part II (m. 17-24) is grouped 2-2-2-2.

*Part III* begins like part I in E minor, then (m. 27) introducing beautiful sequences, closes with an unfinished plagal cadence. It will be noticed that the opening motive is heard in every measure until the last. Observe also the adroit deceptive cadence in m. 24, where the dominant seventh of E minor is substituted for the expected tonic triad of G major.

#### 13. THE POET SPEAKS.

#### METHOD OF STUDY.

a) M. M. about . 92

b) With a great deal of expression and a noble and dignified delivery. The poet bewails the lost Paradise of childhood—lovely, imperishable impressions; distant, mysterious, fairy-like.

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c) Approximate execution.



d) The rests should not be shortened, nor should they be held with the pedal.

e) A fairly long pause

f) The recitative shows still more intensely the lament of the poet—the sadness of blissful days and past joys never to return. This recitative has to be played very freely and with the innermost feeling.

g) If possible, the chord should not be broken. With this most beautiful epilogue, the poet ends this chaste and lovely work—an imperishable homage to childhood.

The complete biographical sketch of Schumann will be found in the Annotations to the following pieces: "Sicilienne"; "Echoes from the Theatre"; "A Jolly Farmer Returning from Work"; "Slumber Song"; "Arabesque."

N. B.-Many more pieces now contain biography of Schumann.

### FORM, STRUCTURE AND HARMONIC ANALYSIS.

Three-part song form. Key of D major.

Part I, m. 1—8. The forephrase (m. 1—4) terminates with a haif cadence in the key of the dominant, the afterphrase closing in the key of the second degree (A minor).

Part II begins with the motive found in m. 1–2, but it at once assumes strange proportions, becomes fragmentary, and modulates in the recitative to apparently remote keys; but it actually passes through the closely related keys of E minor and B minor.

This bold procedure in the middle section of a piece is like a miniature "free fantasie" or work ing-out section with which we shall become familiar when studying the sonata form.

Part III is virtually the same as part I, the latter portion being extended through the extension of its various elements in keeping with the spirit of the theme.

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GLOSSARY.	
NAMES.	

		NAMES.
Schumann,	pronounced,	<u>Shoo</u> -män.
Zwickau,	••	<u>Tswi</u> -kŏw.
Thibaut,		Tē-bōw.
Wieck,		Vēk.
Schunke,		<u>Shun</u> -ka.
Chopin,	••	Shō-pan, (nasalized).
Brahnis,	••	Bräms.
Kinderscenen,	"	Kĭn-der-sā-něn.
Schubert,	"	Shoo-bairt.
		TERMS.
cantabile,	pronounced,	kan-tă-bĭ-lĕ, - singing.
ritardando,		rĭ-tär-dän-dō, - gradually more slowly.
maestoso,	"	mä-ës-tō-zō, - majestically.
poco marc. (marcato),	64	pō-cō mär-cä-tō, - slightly marked.
subito,		soo-bē-tō, - suddenly.
vivace,		vē- <u>vä</u> -tshĕ, - with vivacity.
senzu,		<u>sĕn</u> -tsü, - without.
una corda,	۰.	oo-nä kor-dä, - one string, (soft pedal).
tre corde,	`	trā kor-dē, - three strings, (release soft pedal).
espressivo,	"	ěs-prěs- <u>sē</u> -vō, - with expression.
tranquillo,	"	trän- <u>quēel</u> -lō, - quietly.
amabile,	" "	ä- <u>mä</u> -bē-lě, - amiably.
più,	4.6	<u>pe-oo,</u> - more.
energico,	••	ěn- <u>är-j</u> ē-kō, - energetically.
più mosso,		pe-oo mō-sō, - with more movement.
dolciss. (dolcissimo),	<b>6 6 6 6</b>	döl-tshë-si-mö, - very softly and sweetly.
sostenuto,	64	sōs-tě- <u>noo</u> -tō, - sustained.
·d libitum,	" "	ad <u>lib-i-tum</u> , - at will.

# Of Foreign Lands and People.



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Childhood Scenes, 2

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Catch Me.

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At the Fire-Side.













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# The Knight of the Hobby-Horse.



## Almost too Serious.





## Frightening.





















# The Child Falling Asleep.



The Poet Speaks.



Childhood Scenes, 14.