André Tchaikowsky

Sonata for Clarinet & Piano op.1

josef weinberger

André Tchaikowsky

Trio Notturno

josef weinberger ltd
ANDRÉ TCHAIKOWSKY

Catalogue of Works

JOSEF WEINBERGER
London - Frankfurt am Main - Wien
Polish-born British composer and pianist André Tchaikowsky (1935-82) was an outstanding musician who led an extraordinary life. Born on 1 November 1935 in Warsaw, named Robert Andrzej Krauthammer, he survived the Warsaw ghetto and the Nazi occupation of Poland, endured years of uncertainty while touring with concerts around the USA and Europe, and finally settled in England in the early 1960s.

The complexity of Tchaikowsky’s personality, his wonderful sense of humour, his astonishing literary talent, erudition, memory, dedication to his work, his love for his friends and his outstanding support of them in times of trouble may make him difficult to capture in words: he was a part of the history of the Holocaust and his story of survival is touching and sobering; he was volatile; he had a professional conflict of composer v. pianist; his sexual orientation caused him much self-doubt at various stages of his life; and the list of people he worked with and knew is almost as long as the list of those he offended with his scathing remarks.

Tchaikowsky was the protégé of Arthur Rubinstein, student of Stefan Askenase and Nadia Boulanger, and a prize winner of Chopin International Piano Competition in 1955, and Queen Elizabeth International Piano Competition in 1956. He performed with major orchestras and conductors worldwide, and recorded for such record labels as RCA Victor and Columbia Marconi.
Between 1957 and 1960 Tchaikowsky gave close to 500 concerts around the world. He was represented by the world’s most famous impresario, Sol Hurok, Rubinstein’s agent, who took Tchaikowsky on Rubinstein’s recommendation. During his first tour of the USA in 1957–58, he already displayed the characteristics of his later years: extreme nervousness before performances, dislike of practising, frequent disregard for social etiquette and abhorrence of social functions and receptions after concerts. He shocked the patrons of American concerts by saying rude things to the very people who subsidised his tours, he did not forge good relationships with conductors and orchestras, and seemingly enjoyed the reactions he created.

Playing the piano supported Tchaikowsky financially and enabled him to dedicate his summers to composition. Because he could not dedicate himself to composition full-time, his legacy is small. But that does not mean that it is unimportant. Apart from two piano concertos, two string quartets and a number of compositions for voice, piano, and other instruments, his opera *The Merchant of Venice* is a subtle, intelligent, profound and monumental version of one of Shakespeare’s most serious works that makes a significant contribution to the operatic repertory of the twentieth century.

The legend goes that Tchaikowsky decided to live in England after reading *The Diary of a Nobody* (1888–89) by the brothers George and Weedon Grossmith. He was delighted with the book, and believed that people really did live and think in the way the protagonist – the celebrated Charles Pooter – described. England provided a longed-for stability, even if it took him some years to find a perfect place. He lived in a detached house in Cumnor, near Oxford, where he composed and practiced piano in preparation for his concerts.

Three years before his death, on 10 October 1979, Tchaikowsky made a final will, in which he left his skull to the Royal Shakespeare Company ‘for use in theatrical performances’. Tchaikowsky once told his agent Terry Harrison that he wanted to know that after his death there would be a part of him left, still performing. He also said that, if Shakespeare was indeed an anti-Semite, ‘it would give me a great pleasure to have a Jewish skull wandering around Shakespeare’s Hamlet’. Eventually, his wish came true - his skull appeared in the RSC’s 2008 production of Hamlet at the Courtyard Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, and in both the subsequent performances in London’s West End and on BBC television.

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WORKS LIST

The following works are available on sale from music retailers and online from www.josef-weinberger.com

Sonata for clarinet and piano Op. 1
Reduction for clarinet and piano
ISMN: 979-0-57005-317-9
First performed by Gervase DePeyer (clarinet) and André Tchaikowsky (piano) on 4 July 1966, for a BBC broadcast

Inventions for Piano Op. 2
For solo piano
ISMN: 979-0-57005-358-2
A piano suite of ten "inventions", first performed by the composer on 22 January 1963

String Quartet No.1, Op. 3
String Quartet in A, in four movements
Score - ISMN: 979-0-57005-324-7
Parts - ISMN: 979-0-57005-325-4
First performed by the Lindsay Quartet at Bad Godesberg, Germany, on 10 July 1971

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra Op. 4
Reduction by the composer for two pianos
ISMN: 979-0-57005-309-4
First performed by Radu Lupu (piano) and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, 28 October 1975
(Orchestral parts available to hire - see opposite page for more details)

String Quartet No.2, Op. 5
String Quartet in C, in three movements
Score - ISMN: 979-0-57005-326-1
Parts - ISMN: 979-0-57005-327-8
First performed by the Lindsay Quartet at St. John’s, Smith Square, London, on 23 January 1978

Trio Notturno Op. 6
for violin, cello and piano
Score and parts - ISMN: 979-0-57005-384-1
First performed by Peter Frankl (piano), György Pauk (violin) and Ralph Kirshbaum (cello) on 4 July 1982 at the Town Hall, Cheltenham, as part of the Cheltenham Festival
The following works are available on hire exclusively from the Josef Weinberger Concert Library.

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra Op. 4
2 (2 dbl picc).2.2. (2 dbl Eb).2. / 4.2.0.1. / Timpani / Percussion / Strings
Full Score and orchestral parts available to hire
First performed by Radu Lupu (piano) and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, London, on 28 October 1975.

The Merchant of Venice Op. 7
Operetta in three acts and an epilogue after William Shakespeare
Libretto by John O’Brien
Full score, vocal scores and orchestral parts available to hire

Orchestration:
Wind: Piccolo dbl. 3rd Flute / 2 Flutes / 2 Oboes / Cor Anglais / 3 Clarinets (1. B flat, A / 2. E flat, A, B flat
3. B flat, A, Bb Clarinet in B flat) / 2 Bassoons / Contrabassoon dbl. 3rd Bassoon
Brass: 4 Horns in F / 3 Trumpets in C, B flat (1st dbl. Opt. D) / 3 Trombones / Tuba
Percussion: Timpani / Bass Drum / 2 Bongos (1 small, 1 large) / Castanets / Clashed Cymbals / Claves
Suspended Cymbal / Maracas / 2 Side Drums / Tambourine / Tam-tam / 2 Tom-toms (1 small, 1 large) (off-stage)
Triangle / Whip / Woodblock / 2 Glockenspiels (1 off-stage) / Tubular Bells (off-stage) / Xylophone
Celeste dbl. Piano
Harp
Strings
On-Stage Consort: Descant Recorder / Treble Recorder / Oboe d’amore in A / Oboe da Caccia in F / 2 Bassoons
Lute / Tabor / Harpsichord

Roles:
JESSICA (High Soprano) / PORTIA (Mezzo-dramatic Soprano) / NERISSA (Mezzo-Soprano)
ANTONIO (Countertenor) / BASSANIO (Tenor) / LORENZO (Lyric Tenor) / SHYLOCK (Baritone)
SALERIO (Baritone) / SOLANIO (Bass) / GRATIANO (Bass) / DUKE OF VENICE (Bass)
SATB Chorus and Boys’ Chorus

First performed at The Bregenz Festival (Bregenzer Festspiele), Austria at the Festival Theatre (Festspielhaus), 18 July 2013

The Merchant of Venice - world premiere production
The following is a list of unpublished musical works by André Tchaikowsky. In some cases the whereabouts of the original manuscript is unknown.

**Ten Etudes for piano** (1949)
**Sonata in G-major for Piano** (1949)
**Suite, Prelude, Cavatina, Waltz, and Lullaby for piano** (1950)
**Violin Concerto** (1950)
**Concerto for Flute and Orchestra** (1950)
**Variations on a Theme of Cohen for piano** (1950)
**Prelude and Fugue for piano** (1953)
**Two Preludes for piano** (1954)
**Two Etudes for piano** (1955)
**Song for soprano and piano** (1955)
**Sonata for Viola and Piano** (1954-1955)
1. Largo non troppo | 2. Theme and Variations | 3. Allegro Agitato

**Sonata for Piano** (1958)
First performed by the composer at the Orchestra Hall, Chicago, 19 April 1959

**Piano Concerto** (1956-1957)
First performed by the composer with the Belgium National Orchestra, conducted by André Vandernoot, 18 March 1958

**Two Songs after Poems by William Blake** (1960)
For soprano, oboe, flute, violin, cello, and harpsichord
1. The Lamb | 2. The Tyger

**Octet** (1961)
For clarinet, french horn, bassoon, two violins, viola, cello, and bass

**Concerto Classico** (1962-1964)
For solo violin and orchestra

**Arioso e Fuga per Clarinetto Solo** (1964-1965)

**“Hamlet” Music** (1966)
Written for a production of Hamlet in Oxford, 1966

**Seven Sonnets of Shakespeare** (1967)
Song cycle for contralto and piano
Sonnets 104, 75, 49, 61, 89, 90 and 146
First performed by Margaret Cable (contralto) and André Tchaikowsky (piano), 18 June 1968, broadcast on the BBC. First public performance 22 June 1968, Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall

**“Ariel”** (1969)
Three songs for mezzo-soprano, flute, oboe, clarinet in A, horn in F, bassoon, piano/celesta, and harp.
Words by William Shakespeare, taken from “The Tempest”
1. Come unto these yellow sands | 2. Full fathom five thy father lies | 3. Where the bee sucks

**Six Dances for Piano** (1981)
Unfinished - “Tango” and “Mazurka” completed.

**Five Miniatures for Violin and Piano** (1981)
Unfinished - three “minatures” complete in sketch form.
Detail from the autograph MS of “The Merchant of Venice” (Act Three, Page 58)
DISCOGRAPHY
and other useful information

25 Years - Lindsay String Quartet ‘Live’
Includes: String Quartet No. 2 in C, Op. 5
(ASV Digital)
CD DCA 825
Released 1992

Colin Stone: Williamson - Tchaikowsky - Keeley
Includes: Tango, Mazurka and Inventions for Piano
(Merlin Classics)
MRFD 20033
Released 2000
www.merlinclassics.com

To hear further performances of works by André Tchaikowsky visit andretchaikowsky.com, where a number of recorded performances and broadcasts are available to be listened to in the “Composer” section.

Where appropriate, sample recordings of works by André Tchaikowsky can also be requested from Josef Weinberger Ltd: promotion@jwmail.co.uk

Music for hire & music on sale

Materials for works available on hire
(Concerto for Piano & Orchestra Op. 4 and The Merchant of Venice)
can be obtained from the Josef Weinberger Concert Library:
hirelibrary@jwmail.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7927 7312
www.josef-weinberger.com/concert-hire

Printed editions are available for sale online via Josef Weinberger Ltd:
www.josef-weinberger.com/music-in-print/composer/tchaikowsky-andre

Or directly from music retailers and Faber Music Distribution:
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+44 (0)1279 828982
www.fabermusicstore.com

For further information on André Tchaikowsky, his career as both a pianist and a composer, the latest news and announcements, and to read about his compositions in greater detail, visit the extremely comprehensive andretchaikowsky.com
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