

Album for the Young by Elisenda Fábregas

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Program Notes

Vol. III

Album for the Young is a collection of thirty-four short pieces ranging from early to advanced intermediate level. They are organized in three volumes in order of difficulty. These pieces are one or two pages long and cover a wide range of styles: from Renaissance to contemporary in the first two volumes, and Spanish and Latin American idioms in the third volume. Fingering, pedaling articulation marks and other performance indications are provided for each piece. The writing is melodic and non-polyphonic making it more accessible to the early intermediate student. All the pieces are usually in an ABA form.

I. Spanish fiesta is an energetic piece with colorful grace notes and exotic sounds of flamenco singing, guitar playing and 'zapateado' (feet stamping).

II. Nana (Spanish lullaby) is characterized by a haunting and sustained vocal line over long pedal points and three quarter notes *ostinati* in the left hand accompaniment. The stillness of the accompaniment provides a hypnotic and soothing quality to the music.

III. Sardana (Catalonian dance) is based on the Sardana, the vital and energetic dance from the Northeast Spanish region of Catalonia. The quarter and eighth note rhythmic figure in both right and left hands illustrate the leaps of the dance.

IV. Jota (Dance of Northeast Spain) is based on the jota, a robust dance in rapid triple time from Aragon (Northeast Spain). The left hand illustrates the energetic leaps characteristic of this dance.

V. Habanera (Cuban/Spanish dance) is a sensual and lyrical song over the typical habanera rhythm of (). The melody should be played legato and with a projecting singing tone. The rhythm should be steady but with certain degree of freedom, especially in the right hand.

VI. Tango is based on the tango, a passionate Argentinian dance. The fiercely rhythmic outer sections are built around a lyrical and expressive middle section. The accompanying chords of the outer sections should be performed with an incisive staccato. The rhythm must be steady but should allow for some freedom (or slight *rubato*) in order to exude the sensuality that the tango is best known for.

VII. Homage to Ginastera is a study in fourths that uses some of the characteristic meters, syncopations, and harmonies of the Argentinian composer Alberto Ginastera. This piece should be performed with a 'martellato' or percussive style.

20 *mf*

1 1 2 1 1

24 *f* *f* *f*

1 2 l.h. 2 r.h. 3 2 2

28 *mf*

mf

32 *f* *ff*

f ff

37 *sffz*

1 2 l.h. 2 r.h. 3

(to Ruth Jean Gurwitz)

II. Nana

(Spanish lullaby)

Andante cantabile (♩ = 104-108)

Elisenda Fábregas

p legato e espressivo

poco

mp

mf

1 2 4 1 1 4 5 4 3

5 3 2 3 1 3 2 3 1 1 2 4

8 4 5 4 3 5 1 3 4

11 3 4 3 2

15

18 *poco rall . . .*

A tempo

20 *mp*

23

26

poco

Rallentando

29

pp

(to Ruth Jean Gurtwitz)

III. Sardana

(Catalonian dance)

Elisenda Fábregas

Allegro ballabile (♩. = 124-128)

The musical score is written for piano in 6/8 time. It consists of five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Allegro ballabile' with a metronome marking of a quarter note equal to 124-128 beats per minute. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingerings (numbers 1-5) above the notes. The first system starts with a dynamic marking of *f*. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fifth system.

IV. Jota

(Dance of Northeast Spain)

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Allegro con spirito (♩ = 80)

f ballabile

mp

mf

f

sfz

(to my husband)

V. Habanera

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Andante cantabile (♩ = 60)

p

mp cantabile

mf

mp

mf

poco

poco

mf

28 4 2 3 1 3 4 1 3 1 4 1 4 3 2 1 4 2 2 3 4 1 4

poco

33 3 4 3 2 1 2 3 1 2 2 3 1 4 1 2 3 2 1 4 2 3 2 1 3 4 3 2

38 1 1 2 3 2 1 3 1 3 2 4 1 3 2 4 2 3

f *mf* *poco*

44 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 3 2 1 3 4 5 4 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 5

49 2 3 4 3 2 1 5 2 3 4 3 1 4 1 3 1 4 1 3 2 3 1

sec *sec*

54 2 3 4 3 2 1 5

mp

(to my husband)

VI. Tango

Elisenda Fábregas

Tempo de tango (♩ = 60)

mf molto cantabile

f

molto cantabile

mp cantabile

fz

1 3 1 3 2 1 2 1 3 2 1 2 4 2

6 1 3 1 2 1 4 1 3 4 3 2 1 3 4 5 4 1 4 3

11 2 1 2 1 2 3 2 1 2 4 2 3 2 3 4 3 2 3 5 3

16 1 2 4 5 4 3 2 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 4 5 3 3 4 3 2 3 3 1

22 1 4 1 2 1 4 1 3 1 2 3 1 2 3 2 1 3 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 4 3 2 3

28

crescendo *mf*

34

fz *mf molto cantabile*

39

f

44

49

fz *sfz* *sfz* *8vb*

