

ABSTRACT

This scientific work provides a comprehensive exploration of the musical world of Leopold Godowsky, beginning with a biographical overview that traces the pivotal events of his life as a child prodigy, virtuoso performer, and revered pedagogue. It aims to illuminate the three intertwined facets of his persona—the man, the pianist, and the composer—and to define his permanent place in the evolution of the art of piano playing, a contribution highly esteemed by legendary contemporaries like Sergei Rachmaninoff.

The study focuses primarily on Godowsky's renowned transcriptions, particularly his revolutionary "53 Studies on the Études of Chopin." It argues that these are not mere attempts to improve upon Chopin's masterpieces but are innovative, independent works that transcend empty virtuosity. They are characterized by complex polyphonic textures, a clear harmonic language, and a groundbreaking re-imagining of piano technique, especially for the left hand and pedal use.

This research on Godowsky's "53 Studies" makes a significant contribution to piano pedagogy and musicology. Based on decades of experience as a performer and pedagogue in the United States, the author has developed original practical exercises and guidelines for interpretation and pedaling. These offer performers structured and invaluable tools for mastering the transcendental technical and artistic challenges inherent in these works. The conclusion affirms that Godowsky's ingenious compositions, now increasingly essential in concert repertoires and a source of inspiration for modern musicians, are destined to be admired by future generations and secure his legacy in musical history.

ABSTRACT: The present report "Dvořák and his Piano Compositions" presents biographical data about the composer, outlines his connections with the Slavic musical and dance folklore, and makes comparisons with the work of other composers of the Romantic era. The influence and place of piano music in Dvořák's entire oeuvre is examined. A number of his piano works are analyzed. The character, form and compositional approach are demonstrated with suitable examples. Based on his rich stage experience, the author of this report expresses his personal opinion and attention to the peculiarities of the performance of these works, which is a significant contribution to their application in the pedagogical practice.

WHO IS LEOPOLD GODOWSKY?

Summary: This paper aims to introduce the music world of Leopold Godowsky. Godowsky is a phenomenal pianist and composer. His fame is primarily based on his transcription of the Chopin etudes. These transcriptions (also called etudes) create rich and meaningful musical ideas while further developing the transcendental piano technique. His biography reveals his immense talent, new ideas and contribution to keyboard pedagogy. Godowsky is the first great concert pianist to consciously adopt and then teach the principle of weight-release, rather than muscular impetus, as the most efficient method of playing.