

## 1424. Sportpalastwalzer

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

**The Sportpalastwalzer (Viennese Prater Life).** "The call of the audience, a whistle, resounds and the waltz music begins. The first bars are acknowledged with a satisfied "Aah! The band has correctly interpreted the music wish and intoned the popular Sportpalast waltz, since 1923 the signature melody of the annual six-day race held in Berlin's Sportpalast. The chorus is clapped and whistled along. Krücke" is especially responsible for the latter. Reinhold Habisch, known under this nickname, was not only a "Berlin original" and permanent guest at the Sportpalast, but his whistles also turned the Viennese Prater Life waltz of the Austrian composer Siegfried Translateur into a Sportpalast waltz. Habisch died in 1964, the Sportpalast was demolished in 1973, but the Sportpalastwalzer is still played and whistled at the Berlin Six-Day Race today. It stands for the close connection that spectators, sport and entertainment culture entered into in the 20th century.

**The Berlin Sports Palace and the Six-Day Race.** In the last third of the 19th century, Berlin grew into the largest industrial metropolis in Germany; in 1920 it was the third largest city in the world with around 4 million inhabitants. The rapid growth of the city's population and the development of a modern working society with its division of working time and leisure time led to the emergence of a novel entertainment industry that provided the city's public with ever new entertainment opportunities. In addition to the exhibition halls erected at the Zoo in 1905/1906, the Ice Palace in Lutherstrasse, opened in 1908, and the Admiralspalast in Friedrichstrasse, opened in 1911, this also included the Sports Palace in Potsdamer Strasse, which opened its doors in 1910. It housed the largest artificial ice rink in the world at the time and could accommodate up to 10,000 people, depending on the seating. It was primarily used for major sporting events: Ice hockey games, speed skating races, boxing competitions and bicycle races!

**The Sportpalastwalzer** was composed in 1892 by the then only 17-year-old Siegfried Translateur as Wiener Praterleben. Translateur integrated the hand clapping characteristic of a dance event in the Vienna Prater into the composition as an obligatory accompaniment. The piece was already relatively popular when it was played for the first time in 1923 at the six-day race in Berlin's Sportpalast. It was "Krücke" who came up with the idea of replacing hand clapping with whistling: The Sportpalastwalzer was born!



Since Translateur was considered a half-Jew according to the race laws of the National Socialists, the Sportpalastwalzer was banned in 1933, Translateur was murdered in 1944 in Theresienstadt. However, the audience continued to hold on to the Sportpalastwalzer and whistled the melody despite the ban. After the Second World War, the waltz became again the official recognition melody of the six-day race.

My **MIDI processing** refers to the live concert in Melbourne on 25 October 2016. The Maestro RIEU conducts his 60-piece Johann Strauss Orchestra and plays his world-famous Stradivarius violin, offering a colourful concert full of surprises. The repertoire ranged from romantic, emotional ballads to the most beautiful and famous waltzes - including the complete "Sportpalastwalzer" version, in A major/D major, and in full YT video length of 6:30 min. - on 6 densely written sheet music (MWP verse -2, in verse 1 in G major/C major only the main themes). The YouTube version is of course built as a stage effects piece - with many interruptions and gimmicks on the part of some orchestra members - but everything has been "talked through". We don't do the RHY stops!



Wiener Walzer, T=190

The musical score is arranged in seven staves from top to bottom: Bells (treble clef), Str.-Pad., Strings, Piano, Bass, and Drums (bass clef). The time signature is 3/4. The Drums staff includes a 'middle crash' and is marked with 'BD' and 'MSD'. On the right side, two vertical arrows labeled 'Main 1' and 'Main 2' indicate the structure of the piece.

**Programming instruction**

The Viennese Waltz is a social and tournament dance danced in pairs and is one of the standard dances of the World Dance Programme. With about 60 beats per minute (180bpm) it is the fastest dance of the World Dance Programme after beats, although not after beats. It consists of a suggestion for the accentuated bar part 1 and two additions to the unaccentuated bars parts 2 and 3. This is generally valid for the 3/4 bar and only the imagination is left to decide which instruments should play together here. In the Viennese waltz, the strings and the piano are usually entrusted with this arrangement of 1xbass+2xchord. In the above scheme, the string chord part is pre-clocked as "Advanced", because the rhythmic strings fill the bar immensely! The chord carpet here is not designed as an advanced, but quietly plays through the chords in the background. The bass could also consist only of the fundamental, because often the waltz-chord change is present in time. So far Main1. In Main 2 only a loosening up eighth chord decomposition of the bells is added.