

1552. Champagne Polka



Backgrounds Of S. Radic

The Champagne Polka is a polka by JOHANN STRAUSS (Op. 211). The work was first performed on August 12, 1858 in Pavlovsk, Russia. Johann Strauss gave this polka the nickname musical joke. It was composed during his trip to Russia in 1858 and premiered in Pavlovsk under the title Ball Champagne Polka. In the work, the composer describes the popping of champagne corks and the merry exuberance of a ball. The composer turned to champagne in many of his works. The climax of this fondness was then several numbers of his operetta Die Fledermaus dedicated to champagne. The champagne polka was well received both in Russia and in Vienna, where it was first played on November 21, 1858 in the Volksgarten.

The work was dedicated to the Finance Minister of the Danube Monarchy at the time, Karl Ludwig von Bruck. When he became involved in a bribery affair and committed suicide, as it later turned out to be innocent, this also had an impact on the polka dedicated to him. Strauss took them out of his program and even later only played them seldom. Today the work is occasionally performed again. The playing time on the CD listed under individual references is 2 minutes and 20 seconds. Depending on the conductor's musical understanding, this time may vary somewhat.

My "sound research" on YouTube has resulted in countless versions of the work, with the NCPA Orchestra from China being the favorites: the tempo is not too fast and it is played very brilliantly!

My second favorite recording is by a "colleague piano teacher" Dorian Henry (based in Cana-

da) with his interesting piano performance as a "digital score". Note from Dorian Henry himself: All content featured in my channel is my own content (check out every scrolling score video I post, you'll see the information "Digital Score of Dorian Henry" at the beginning of every video, top right on the screen of the video and a copyright notice citing my channel's name "RagtimeDorianHenry" at the end of each score). Every piece of music featured in my channel is in the public domain and out of copyright (Link to my channel's public domain policy: https://imslp.org/wiki/Public_domain#).

However, since I'm following a completely different musical intention, a strict separation of the processing areas is announced: "digital score" by Dorian Henry was used as the basis for my numerous other "MWP" arrangements. This is how I created complete MIDI arrangements in KEY1+2, PNO1+2 and ORG1 versions with all the associated play+playback GM sequences, styles and (new!) also STY scores for all MWP users who are now have purchased a style program machine (such as the Ketron SD40). They can now create their own styles using the exact STY scores. Information in the FAQ.



Champagner Polka, Op. 211-Festival Waltz: LÜ Jia and NCPAO

Disco-Polka T=120



Main 1

Main 2

A - B (+Adv.) MAIN-1+Advanced

C - D (+Adv.) MAIN-2+Advanced

Piano R

Piano L (Adv.)

Strings R

Strings L

HIT (ad lib.)

Bass

Drums

The musical score is arranged in a grand staff format with eight staves. The top two staves are Piano R and Piano L. The next two are Strings R and Strings L. Below these are HIT, Bass, and Drums. The score is divided into two main sections: Main 1 (A-B) and Main 2 (C-D). Main 1 consists of two measures, and Main 2 consists of two measures. The Piano L and Strings L parts are marked 'ADV.' in Main 1. The HIT track has '(ad lib.)' written below it in both sections. The Drums track shows a consistent eighth-note pattern with a 'small crash' on the 8th note of the second measure in each section.

Programming instruction

This relatively fast "disco polka" at 120 is actually played much faster on many YT examples. Not my thing: I even prefer to play it at 110! In Main1 you can see the two identical tracks "Piano L" and "Strings L" - the Pno track is ADV. marked. There the bass plays a simple fifth phrase. In Main2, more movement comes into play, with an eighth note Pno+Str. additionally sounds. The bass and the left hand (Pno+Str.) now play a forward-driving basic triad movement. The 8th note in the drums is "small crash" for me - it was actually meant for the hi-hat open (unfortunately too quiet in my Wersi Pegasus). The HIT track contains only a sparse message (ad lib.), meaning that you should use it as "needed" - here an externally operated HIT sample in the "Drums Effects" button group would be appropriate (if technically intended)!