



A Musical Snuffbox, Op. 32 Anatoli Konstantinowitsch Ljadow

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A MUSICAL SNUFFBOX

UNE TABATIÈRE À MUSIQUE (VALSE-BADINAGE) OP.32

Liadov was brought up in St. Petersburg and both studied and later taught at the St. Petersburg Conservatory. A fine pianist himself, Liadov was known for his strict attention to detail and precision in his own compositions as well as demanding these qualities from his pupils. This simple but charming piece is an excellent encore. Improve your finger dexterity by breaking up fast passages (see *Piano Lessons Book 3* page 7). You need to reflect the winding down of the musical box through the piece – getting slower and slower until it stops; then freeze your hands over the keys until the applause begins. This is not indicated in the music, so try to feel where you should gradually change the tempo.

Anatole Liadov (1855–1914)

Automaticamente ♩ = 80

The first system of the musical score is in 3/8 time, marked 'Automaticamente' with a tempo of ♩ = 80. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The music is written for piano and features a 'pp sempre staccato' instruction. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes, while the left hand plays a bass line with some rests.

The second system continues the piece, starting at measure 9. It maintains the same tempo and key signature. The right hand continues with eighth-note patterns, and the left hand provides a steady bass accompaniment.

The third system begins at measure 17 and includes a first and second ending. The first ending leads back to an earlier section, while the second ending concludes the phrase. The tempo remains constant.

The fourth system starts at measure 25 and features a repeat sign with a first ending. The music continues with the same rhythmic and melodic patterns.

The fifth system begins at measure 33 and concludes the piece. It features a final melodic flourish in the right hand and a corresponding bass line in the left hand.