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ABOUT THE MUSIC

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

German composer. Born in Eisenach, March 21, 1685.
Died in Leipzig, July 28, 1750.

Minuet

BWV Appendix 132

from the *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*

This keyboard minuet is from the *Notebook for Anna Magdalena Bach*, transcribed for clarinet and keyboard. Bach and his young second wife, Anna Magdalena Wilcke, collaborated on this collection of little pieces for keyboard between 1722 and 1725, for Anna's practice as well as that of the many children in the household. The minuet (sometimes spelled menuet) is a triple meter dance that has roots in French folk culture. It was particularly popular with the aristocracy during the Baroque and Classical eras.

Born in Vienna, transcriber Eric Simon (1907-94) studied clarinet with Victor Polatschek, the principal clarinetist of the Vienna Philharmonic, and with Polatschek's successor, Leopold Wlach. After spending one year in the Soviet Union, where he played in the Moscow Philharmonic, Simon held positions playing the clarinet in the Vienna State Opera orchestra and the Prades Festival Orchestra. In 1938 he left Europe for the United States, where he played in the New York City Symphony under Leopold Stokowski and Leonard Bernstein. Simon was Benny Goodman's clarinet teacher in 1940 and 1941, and also taught at the Mannes School of Music and the New School. His transcriptions reflect his belief that students should be exposed to the best possible music.

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN

Austrian composer. Born in Bonn, December 17, 1770.
Died in Vienna, March 26, 1827.

Marmotte

Op. 52, No. 7

Among the many works Beethoven composed are over 130 songs, or *lieder*, though today he is not particularly known for his vocal music. This is a transcription of the song "Marmotte," Op. 52, No. 7, composed c. 1790-92. It has a text by Goethe about a traveling musician and his performing marmot (a plump, furry, mountain ground squirrel) sidekick. (See the Bach Minuet for information on transcriber Eric Simon.)

La donna è mobile

from the opera *Rigoletto*

Transcribed by Eric Simon

Giuseppe Verdi
(1813–1901)

Allegretto

Clarinet in B \flat

Piano

7

13

19

f

mp

p

mf

f

mp

p

mf