

GUSTAV WEBER

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It is almost pointless to write a satisfactory article about this composer as very little is known about him.

He was born in Switzerland on 20 October 1845 and studied at Leipzig Conservatoire. He became a professional organist and conductor and, for most of his career, he taught singing in Zurich.

The Leipzig Conservatoire was founded by Mendlessohn in April 1843. He was the conductor of the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra and the Conservatoire had many famous students such as Albeniz, Grieg, Sullivan, Janacek, Sinding, Fortner and Boulton.

Weber died at the age of 41 on 12 June 1877.

Among his works are:

[Piano Sonata in B flat Op 1](#) (link to download PDF of score)

Piano Quartet Op 4

Piano Trio Op 5 which was highly praised by Liszt

Idyllen for piano Op 7

Klavierstücke for piano Op 9

The Piano Sonata is in four movements, a massive allegro, a scherzo marked presto, an andante espressivo and an allegro vivace and lasts about 32 minutes in total. Some have said it resembles the Brahms early piano sonatas but I do not see this. It is also said that it bears some affinity with Beethoven's Op 106 sonata known as the Hammerklavier which is also in B flat. Weber's work would be well received in a concert recital. John Kersey has recorded this sonata on his Romantic Discoveries CD RDRCD 71.

The piano pieces of Op 7 and Op 9 are delightful.

The Piano Trio Op 5 was dedicated to Liszt who wrote in 1882, "I consider it an eminent work worthy of recommendation and performance".

The Piano Quartet Op 4 is in C minor with the third movement poco adagio in B. The opening movement is marked allegro appassionato followed by a scherzo marked vivace and, after the slow movement, an interesting finale.

It is dedicated to Theodore Kirchner.

Weber was a bigish man with prominent cheeks and was a very likeable man.

As his music is very good why does it not get played?

(335}