

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

(1805-1847)

Farewell from Rome

for Solo Organ

Arranged by Barbara Harbach

Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel was born on November 14, 1805 in Hamburg, Germany. She was the oldest of the four children of Leah and Abraham Mendelssohn, a banker. In 1812, the family moved to Berlin where Fanny received her first piano lessons from her mother. She later studied with the well-known performer and teacher Marie Bigot. Along with her brother Felix, she began a course of musical study with various teachers. Because her father was opposed to her further education, the thorough training she was receiving along with her brother was eventually discontinued. He remained firmly against Fanny's musical career, believing that women were to remain an ornament to their husbands and families.

In 1823, the Mendelssohns began to hold Sunday concerts which took place in the Mendelssohn's garden house performed by members of the court orchestra. Fanny took a large part in the organization of these Sunday concerts, planning the programs, inviting the artists, serving as pianist, and conducting the choir. In 1829, after a five-year courtship, Fanny married the Prussian court painter Wilhelm Hensel. Their son Sebastian was born in 1830.

Fanny was regarded by their parents as more talented than Felix. She remained his mentor and role model throughout her life. To the very end, he valued her criticism above all others. Even though he greatly admired his sister, Felix shared his father's belief that music for a woman could be only "an adornment, never a basis for a career." He was generous in his praise of her, but refused to allow the publication of her music or her appearance as a professional pianist. After she married, her husband encouraged her to publish her works, but she felt compelled to seek the approval of her family, which, of course, she never received.

Felix's views of women did not, however, prevent him from including six of Fanny's *Lieder* under his own name, or playing her piano works at his recitals. In 1846, Fanny again sought Felix's approval for publishing her works. This time he approved, giving permission for her professional career. It was, unfortunately, a short-lived blessing, for Fanny died of a stroke on May 14, 1847, during the rehearsal of one of her brother's works.

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2

FANNY MENDELSSOHN HENSEL
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Andante con espressione [♩. = 54]

I Oboe

II Strings 8'

Pedal 16', 8'

Musical score for measures 2-4. The score is for I Oboe, II Strings 8', and Pedal 16', 8'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8. The tempo is *Andante con espressione* with a quarter note equal to 54 beats per minute. The music features a melodic line in the Oboe and a harmonic accompaniment in the strings and pedal. A first ending bracket labeled 'I' spans measures 3 and 4, leading to a second ending labeled 'II' which is marked *molto*.

4

cantato e espressivo

Musical score for measures 4-7. The score is for the piano. The tempo is *cantato e espressivo*. The music features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8.

7

Musical score for measures 7-10. The score is for the piano. The music features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8.

10

Musical score for measures 10-13. The score is for the piano. The music features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/8.