

Johannes Brahms, great German composer and pianist, is one of the most highly respected music masters of all time. The world has honored him by naming him one of the "Three B's" of music: Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Robert Schumann, who pronounced him a genius upon their first meeting, became a close friend and helped him to receive much favorable publicity in launching his career. Brahms was hailed as a great master when his exemplary work for solo voices, chorus and orchestra, *A German Requiem*, began to be performed throughout Europe. He startled the musical world with the excellence of his *1st Symphony*, which had its premier performance in 1876. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the University of Breslau, and graciously acknowledged the honor with his famous *Academic Festival Overture*. Besides his symphonic and choral works, his chamber music and instrumental compositions, he wrote outstanding works for piano, including sonatas, intermezzos, rhapsodies, fantasies, variations, etc., and two concertos. While Brahms left no piano music that can be classified as really simple, this WALTZ IN A \flat MAJOR, Opus 39, No. 15 is one of his least difficult compositions. It is worth a bit of extra effort. It is one of Brahms' most beloved melodies.

Waltz in A \flat Major to Dr. Eduard Hanslick

Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Moderato $\text{♩} = 76 - 84$

The musical score is presented in three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) begins with a piano (*p*) and dolce marking. It features a circled 'a' in measure 3, which refers to a performance instruction at the bottom of the page. The second system (measures 5-8) includes first and second endings. The third system (measures 10-13) is marked *poco cresc.* and shows the piece's progression towards its conclusion.

(a) The small notes are played quickly, *before the beat* of the following chord, here and in measures 18 and 32.

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