



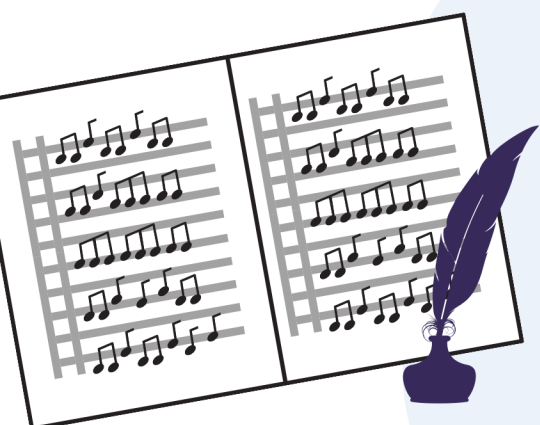
COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



FRIEDRICH BURGMÜLLER

1806–1874

Style: Romantic

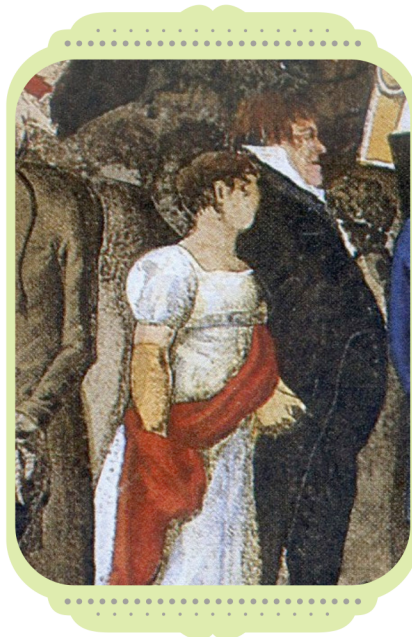


Composer of Teaching Music

Burgmüller was a German pianist and composer best known for his three collections of teaching pieces for piano, especially his 25 *Easy and Progressive Etudes*, Op. 100 for intermediate students. Two other collections, Op. 105 and 109, consist of slightly more advanced etudes.

A Musical Family

Friedrich had a lot of musical relatives. His father August and his brother Norbert were also composers. At one time his father was the Kapellmeister (music director) of the Bonn Orchestra where the young 18-year-old Beethoven was a viola player. Burgmüller's mother Therese was a pianist and singer. Burgmüller also studied with Ludwig Spohr and made his concert debut in the city of Kassel, Germany in 1830.



Therese and August Burgmüller at Napoleon's arrival to Düsseldorf



Norbert Burgmüller

Paris and Tragedy

In 1832 at the age of 26, Burgmüller moved to Paris and lived there for the rest of his life. His brother Norbert was also planning to move to Paris, but he tragically drowned at a spa while having an epileptic seizure. Norbert appears to have been an even more respected composer than Friedrich during his life and became friends with Mendelssohn and Schumann. However, he is little known today.

His Music

Among Friedrich Burgmüller's works are short piano pieces, waltzes, nocturnes, polonaises, and two ballets.



Significant Works:

- 25 Easy and Progressive Etudes, Op. 100
- 18 Etudes, Op. 109