



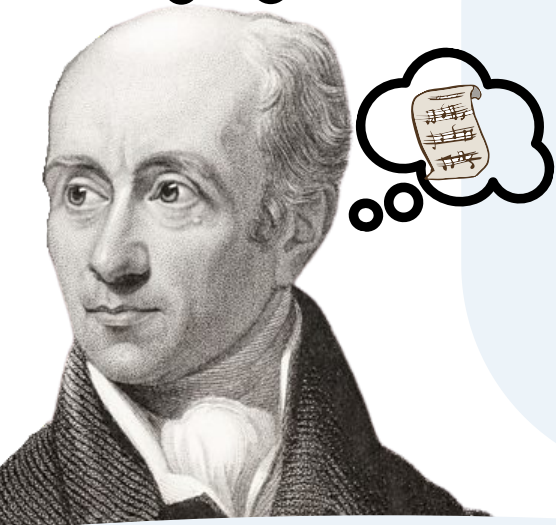
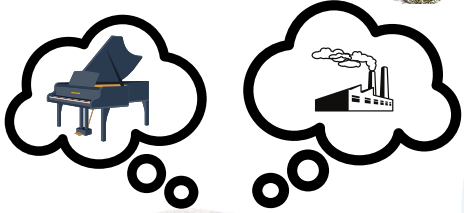
COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT



MUZIO CLEMENTI

1752-1832

Style: Classical



A Jack of All Trades

Clementi wasn't just a pianist and a composer. He was also an organist, conductor, music publisher, editor, and piano manufacturer. That is enough to make any parent proud! Along with a long list of jobs, he also had a long name. His full name was Muzio Filippo Vincenzo Francesco Saverio Clementi!

Early Training

He moved to England in his teens to study composition under the sponsorship of the wealthy Beckford family. In return, Clementi lived at the family's estate and provided musical entertainment. He did this for seven years until he was 21 years old. Legend has it that Clementi practiced for eight hours a day during this period.



Yeah...Clementi rocks...



Ludwig van Beethoven

Performance Career

Clementi toured Europe many times as a concert pianist and even entered a piano competition with Mozart. Both pianists performed well, and Emperor Joseph II declared it a tie! Beethoven also highly regarded Clementi and played his sonatas often. It is reported that he very often kept a Clementi Sonata handy on his music rack.

Contribution to Music

Clementi was one of the first people to create keyboard compositions specifically for the piano. As a result, he has often been called the "father of the piano." In his lifetime, he composed almost 110 piano sonatas, and that isn't even counting the sonatinas! Carl Czerny, another famous pianist-composer, called Clementi "the foremost pianist of his time."

Significant works:

- Gradus ad Parnassum
- Sonatinas Op. 36
- Over 100 Sonatas