REBIKOV
SILHOUETTES

NINE CHILDHOOD PICTURES FOR THE PIANO Op. 31

Edited by
Willard A. Palmer

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VLADIMIR REBIKOV

Silhouettes, subtitled *Nine Childhood Pictures for the Piano*, ranks high in popularity among the piano works of Vladimir Ivanovitch Rebikov (1866-1920), who is often referred to as the father of Russian modernism in music. His earliest works strongly show the influence of Tschaikowsky, but he soon made extensive exploitation of the whole-tone scale and identified with the impressionistic movement.

Rebikov believed that music is "a language of emotions" and wrote music, he said, "to express moments in life for which words are no longer sufficient." He was particularly fond of composing music for children, and one of his most successful works is his children's opera, *The Christmas Tree,* composed in 1903. He also wrote a musical pantomime, *Little Snow White*, and a two-act opera, *Prince Charming.* He composed a stage work called *Scenic Fables*, which includes such titles as "The Grasshopper and the Ant," "A Dinner with a Bear," etc.

Rebikov's *Silhouettes* explores a variety of composing techniques, to provide, through simple, short pieces, an effective and valuable introduction to impressionistic music.

Particularly noteworthy is Rebikov's use of the pedal to produce sometimes nebulous and often dissonant impressionistic effects, by deliberately blurring melody notes and overlapping the sounds of accompanying chords, etc. He often uses the pedal to sustain tones beyond indicated note-values and frequently indicates the pedal sustained through many measures. The pedal indications thus are a part of the composition to such an extent that they must be very carefully observed.

Rebikov employs a wide range of tempo and dynamics, along with varied styles of touch. This collection contains much of value for every piano student.

Second Edition

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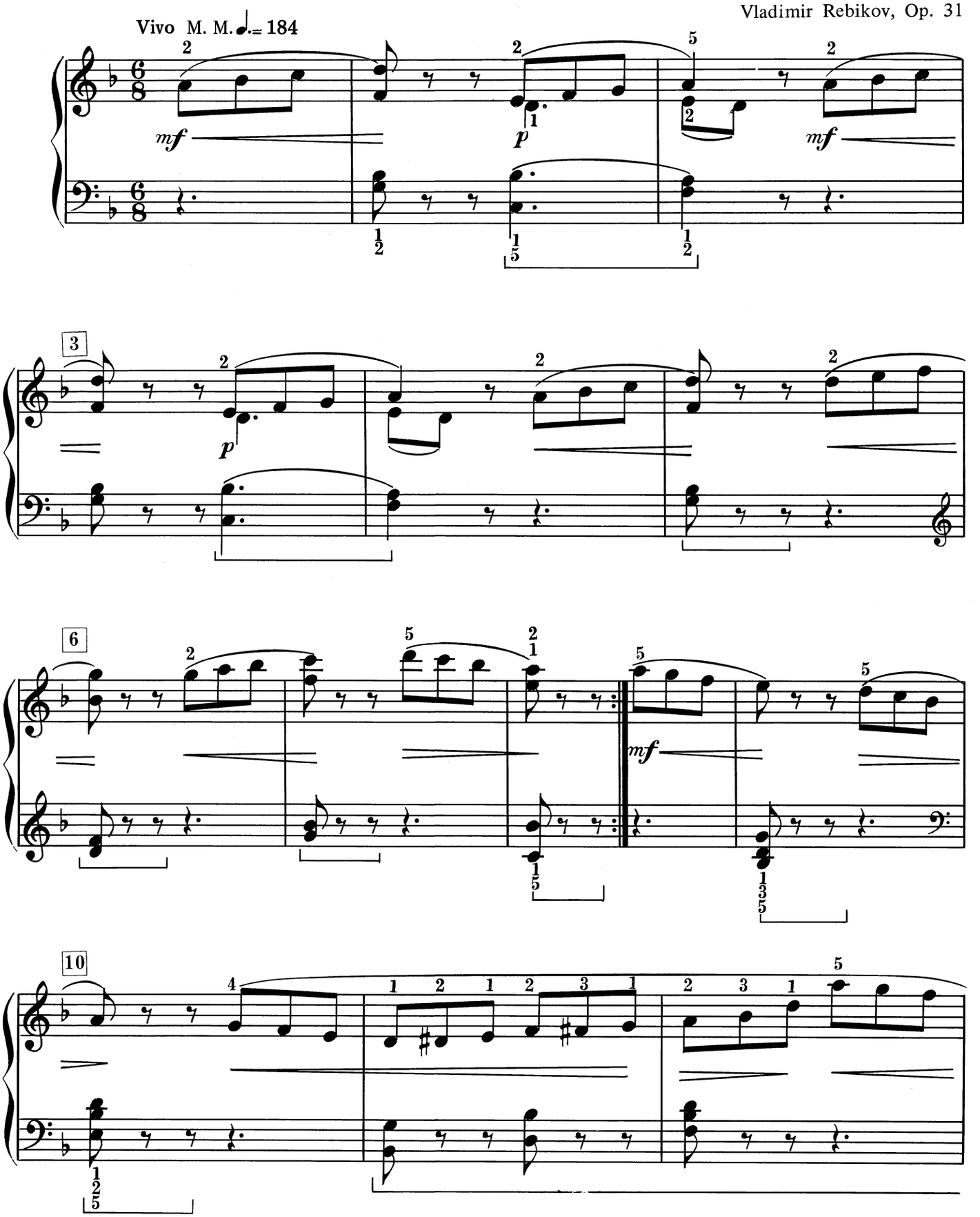
1. CHILDREN SKATING

Vladimir Rebikov, Op. 31