



Bisel Classics

Carl
CZERNY

Les
ETRENNES
Opus 32

PIANO
SOLO



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Preface

During the nineteenth century, the waltz became the most popular ballroom dance in Europe, and many composers contributed a large output to this genre. Among the earliest contributors to the form were figures such as Franz Schubert, Friedrich H. Himmel, Johann N. Hummel, Anton Diabelli and Carl Czerny, many of whose pieces laid the foundation for the development of this musical form, thus paving the way for their ultimate evolution into fully fledged symphonic forms at the hand of the "Waltz King", Johann Strauss (1825-1899).

'*Les Etrennes*' were composed by Czerny in the first decades of the nineteenth Century, and probably as its own subtitle shows (*24 Walzer zum Neujahrsball*), for the celebration of the New Year. The first publication date could be round 1820 - 1823, as the plate number included in the pages containing the music is given as S:u:C 3970 (S.A. Steiner & Co.) but in 1826, Tobias Haslinger become sole owner of the Publishing house, producing all subsequent plates with his initials TH. The presence of a newly engraved title page which attributes ownership of the work to Haslinger tells us that the work was reprinted at least once and may (in fact) never have fallen out of print in the years since its first publication. A testament to their popularity.

During these years Czerny's was concentrated primarily in teaching, composing and arranging. As a teacher his services were very much in demand, giving up to twelve lessons a day as a matter of course. But, he also succeeded as a composer in this period. In 1818 Anton Diabelli, who by this time had founded his own music Publishing house,