



Bisel Classics

Joseph
WOELFL
IX VARIATIONS

**PIANO
SOLO**

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Preface

The tradition of extracting themes from popular stage works to be used as the basis for theme and variations for chamber instruments, really begins with the ability to mass produce sheet music economically in the 1790's, when a number of great publishing houses were established using the new state of the art lithographic printing process. Pieces like the 9 variations or '*IX VARIATIONS sur le Terzetto Pria ch'io l'impegno de l'Opera l'Amor marinaro pour le Forte Piano composées et dédiées a Mademoiselle la Baronne Nanette de Lezzeny. No.1*' to give it its full title, were composed with the public appetite for popular works firmly in mind and that period produced many pot-boilers, most of which are mercifully forgotten today.

There was a danger until very recently that Joseph Woelfl would be forgotten too but the superb efforts of the conservators at the Bayrische Staatsbibliothek of Munich mean that many of the works in Wolf's catalogue still exist and remain to be discovered and players like Colladant and Nakamatsu are leading the way with recordings of his piano works, if not the broader, symphonic and chamber repertoire. Woelfl was a prolific composer of pieces for the forte piano and a significant portion of his *oeuvre*, is written for the fortepiano alone or features the fortepiano in a significant way. To this catalogue we must add 7 piano concertos, 2 symphonies, numerous chamber ensembles, and 9 operas. A significant achievement for a composer who died before his 40th birthday.

The theme and variations were a favourite with Woelfl and the present edition is one of a large number of works