

## **Analysis of the Childhood Heart Diary**

**Chen Jing**

College of Music, Inje university, South Korea

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**Abstract:** Schumann's music is mostly contemporary. In this paper, six of a set of piano pieces created by Du Lala's love in his youth are selected for analysis. Most of them are descriptions of feelings and memories of childhood. Through analyzing the harmony, composition, structure, mode and other aspects of music.

### **1. Introduction of Schumann**

The Romantic era in the history of European musical culture. He is a musician with strong romanticism, is proficient in literature and brings the poet's passion and fantasy to the music. In this period, piano pieces were very popular and he composed a lot of great piano pieces. In addition, he created many excellent other musical works during his lifetime, particularly well known for his songs. As a very precious treasure in the piano literature, his piano cycles have a special characteristic of the structure. He bravely innovated his form of music, and promoted music to reflect real life, reflecting the character and personality psychology, and literature, poetry and music are closely linked, and it formed his own unique, life-like characteristics of Romantic art.

The music types of Schumann's works are staged, and in a certain period of time, Schumann was creating a lot of works of this music types. Schumann's piano works played a major role in his whole life. The creation of piano works can be divided into three stages. The "children's scene" was completed in his youth stage.

"Children's scene" is a very unique work in the history of piano art. It was created in 1838 and initially consisted of more than 30 charming and exquisite works. When Schumann fallen in love with Clara, he wanted to write a letter to Clara in the distance and convey his love. In order to recall the wonderful childhood time when two people were together and, so wrote this piece, remind her do not forget her lover. Schumann was afraid Clara would not be satisfied, so he chose 13 works from them and combined them into one episode, named "Childhood Scenes".

"The Scenes of childhood" is one of the most outstanding piano cycles. The work showed an image of a child which full of imagination, hopes and aspirations, vividly displayed to people. The work expressed nostalgia for the passing of childhood. Schumann is a romantic spiritual leader, he focused on the music itself, so his music is recognized as the heart and the music depicts the situation on a high level.

For this paper, I will analyze 6 pieces, no.1~3, 6, 8 and 9, among them. I will explain some musical features including harmony, form, texture and rhythms, in order to see how Schumann created his own characteristic piece with his unique compositional technique [1-3].

### **2. Analysis of <Von fremden Ländern und Menschen>'Foreign countries and Foreigners'**

'Foreign countries and Foreigners'(Von fremden Ländern und Menschen in Eng) is sectional rounded binary form in G major. <Table 1> Shows the form, key and phrase structure of this piece as below.

Table 1. Form of 'Foreign countries and Foreigners'

Numbers of bar	1-8	9-14	15-22
part	: A:	: B	A:
major	G major	G major	G major
cadence	(PAC)	(IAC)	(PAC)
Composition of phrase	sentence	phrase	sentence

In Part A, the melody in m.1-2 and m.3-4 shows similar motions, and the harmonic progression in m.5-8 finishes in Prefect Authentic Cadence (PAC), thus it shows a Sentence. From the beginning, the main melody exhibits the rising motion of minor six degrees with the color of memories. It expresses the feelings of longing. As shown in Figure 1. In the second beat of the measure 1, the secondary diminished 7th chord showing exotic musical style has been used. The same chord is used in m.15 and m.17, showing Schumann's beautiful skill, and depicts the full of fantastic dream.

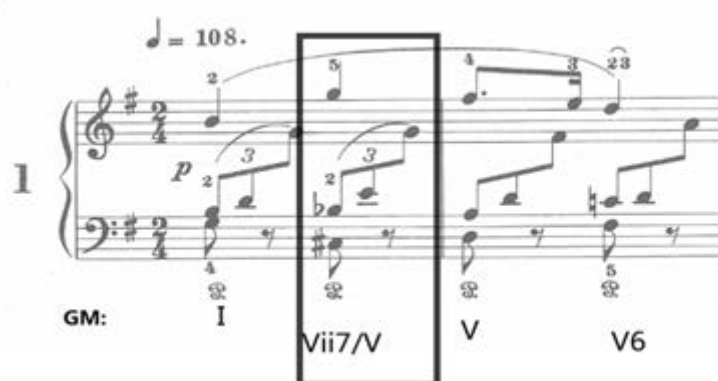


Figure 1. Diminished 7th chord in m.1 of Song 1.

Part B is a phrase. The melody of B is in the low register because it expressed the happy time spent together in childhood, but the regret of not being able to go back. It is also an expression of regret that we cannot be together now.

And then goes back to Part A, tempo is getting more and more slowly, until finish this music. This part goes back to the first theme melody, describe a scene of fond memories of childhood.

### 3. Song 2, Bizarre story (Kuriöse Geschichte)

'Bizarre story' is the continuous rounded binary form in D major. < Table 2> Shows the form, key and phrase structure as below.

Table 2. Form of 'Bizarre story'

numbers of bar	1 - 17	18 - 41
part	: A:	: B A:
cadence	(PAC)	(HC) (PAC)
major	D Major - A Major	G Major, D Major
Structure of phrase	Similar period	phrases, similar period

The rhythm of this part is 3/4. So the music feels like dance music. Part A in D major modulates to A major. Part B is in G major and modulates to D major. 'Bizarre story' differs from Song 1, 'Foreign countries and Foreigners', especially in rhythm. This part uses a lot of decorative notes and it expresses lively, jumping melody, similar to the form of Mazurka dance music. The melody in lower register of A part is symbol of adult speak the bizarre story, and the melody in higher register of B part is the

symbol of childish strange feeling with the story. For Table 2 shows, besides in m.2, and m.6, Schumann uses secondary dominant chord very often, it makes music feel more fantastic (Figure 2).



Figure 2. secondary dominant chord in m.2 of Song 1.

Part A consists of two phrases, first phrase is m.1 to 4 finishing in IAC, and the second phrase finishes in PAC in A Major, so producing a period. Note that the period shows the modulation from D major to A Major. The next eight measures completely repeat the first period.

Part B consists of four phrases, first one is new melody in a new key, G major. The melody of part B is very smooth, low and quiet. It seems that the children were immersed in the plot of the fantasy story while listening to the story. The phrase is same with the first phrase of this piece. The Third one is also the same as the second phrase of this piece, except for the cadence. The cadence of the third phrase in B part finishes in the original key, D major. The last phrase is the same as the first one of B part in G major. Thus, the B part differs from the A, A' part since the new melody and the new key, G major, outlines this part, though the same melody with the main theme in D major is located in the middle.

Part A' is the same as the second and the third phrase of Part B showing PAC cadence in D major.

#### 4. Song 3, Hide-and-seek (Hasche-Mann)

Hide-and-seek (Hasche-Mann) is continues rounded binary form in D major. The Table 3 below shows form of song's Numbers of bar, Major, Cadence and so on.

Table 3. Form of Hide-and-seek

Numbers of bar	1-8	9-16	17-21
Part	: A:	: B	A:
Major	D major-b minor	G major-b minor	D major-b minor
Cadence	(PAC)	(HC)	(PAC)
Composition of phrase	phrase group	phrase group	

Even though the 'Hide-and-seek's rhythm is 2/4, the tempo is 138 because it shows the scene of chasing, hurriedly and happily. Part A consists of two same phrases. The stronger beat of m.1, m.3, m.6 and m.8 use sfp, as shown as Figure 3.



Figure 3. the Strength mark of m.1:

The contrast between the strong beat and the weak beat in this part is very obvious. Showing the scene of being caught and running away. The repetition of two same phrases seems to be the children's repeated search. These two same phrases are composed of two small phrases. The upper melodic part has a long quarter note, while the middle part is formed by the series of lively and fast 16-note jumps. The first beat at the beginning of each little phrase is very special. It vividly reflects the motivation of children to hide when playing. This part consists of two sentences with the same melody. The sentence structure of this part is period group. The melody of this part's cadence is PAC in b minor.

Part B starts in G major and then returns to part A melody. Part B is G major and then modulates to b minor. The strength of the music changes from weak to strong and then to weak, just like when one is about to be found, one feels excited and then calm down without being found. This part's cadence is HC.

Then goes back to Part A, the melody of Part B and A has been repeated two times.

The Hide and seek of the melody of quarter notes and 16 notes from the beginning to the end of the whole song is very harmonious in musical image, implying the scene of playing hide-and-seek game. It seems that then they run with together go outside the house to play hide-and-seek. The children who were ready to run away in front ran happily, and the children who were chasing behind followed them, and soon fell into the hands of the pursuers. Then they gasped and laughed happily without any worries.

## 5. Song 6, Important Event (Wichtige Begebenheit)

Important Event is continuous ternary form in A major. < Table 4> Shows the form, key and phrase structure as below.

Table 4. Form of Important Event.

Numbers of bar	1-8	9-16	17-27
Part	A	B	A
Major	A major	D major	A major
Cadence	PAC	PAC	PAC
Composition of phrase	Repeated phrases	Phrase group	Repeated phrases

In Part A, constitute with a motive. m.1-4 and m.5-8 is same motive, but m.5-8 is more lower than m.1-4. This part is A major, the two phrase is same melody and cadence also same. So Part A's cadence is PAC. The structure of phrase is Repeated phrase. The repeated treading of the Piano's pedals marked in the sheet represents the emphasis on stress. the mean of ped simile as the below Figure 4. It seems like children learning from adults and announcing an important thing seriously. Part A's melody's repeat means announcing this important things again.



Figure 4. Pedal mark on music sheet.

Part B is modulate to D major, it is a phrase group. Entering Part B, the melody turns into a low voice. Measures 10 to 14 is first melody motive, and measures 15 to 18 is second melody motive. The

left-handed melody of the first melody motive goes in the same direction. The first melody's cadence is IAC and the second melody's cadence is PAC, thus producing a phrase. The rhythm in m.10-14 is the same, melody also same, in order to appeal to the importance of things.

## 6. songs 8, Next to furnace (Am kamin)

Next to furnace is continues rounded binary form in F major. The melody of this song is very calm, describing a family sitting around a fire chatting. Very warm and comfortable feeling.

Table 5. From of Next to furnace.

Numbers of bar	1-8	9-26	27-34
Part	A	: B A:	Coda
Major	F major	g minor-a minor; F major	F major
Cadence	IAC	PAC	PAC
Composition of phrase	phrase	phrase group	similar phrase

This song's tempo is softly and slowly. In Part A constitute with two phrase, it is one motive. The m.1-4 to m.5-8's melody is same, but the second is more certain than the first. So this part's composition of phrase is Repeated phrases. Part A's cadence is IAC. Part A's some melody is similar with Nocturne (No.7). In the m.2 used syncopation, the syncopation in this part shows the child's loveliness. It shows on Figure 5.



Figure 5. rhythm of m.2.

Part B is constitute with two phrase, and it is same melody. Part B in g minor modulates to A major. This part's cadence is PAC. The melody line in Part B is more obvious than that in Part A. Then enter to Part A. The melody in coda is bass progression, the melody more and more lower. The cadence of Coda is PAC. Coda of this songs is F major. Measures 27- 30 are similar with m.30-34. But the register of m.30-34 is lower than m.27-30. Make the music sound like it is going away. When childhood, stay with family members near on furnace, and the warm and pleasant time will never come back. It feels a little regretful.

The end of this songs use many secondary dominant, it shows on Figure 6.



Figure 6. chord of m.28-34.

Because this songs use simple key, so the end of this song use many secondary dominant increase the colour, to enrich the harmony.

## 7. songs 9, Bamboo horse game (Ritter vom Steckenpferd)

Bamboo horse game is continuous rounded binary form in C major. The special of this song is rhythm, describing the scene of children playing bamboo horse game. The rhythm is 3/4, and the style is syncopation. Syncopation sounds like the sound of horses' hooves. The accent is on the third beat, so it sounds similar with horses' hooves.

Table 6. Shows the form, key and phrase structure as below.

Numbers of bar	1-8	9-16	17-24
Part	A	II: B	A: I
Major	C major	F major-d minor-C major	C major
Cadence	IAC	HC	PAC
Composition of phrase	period group	period	period group

In A Part, constitute with a motive. m.1-4 and m.5-8 is same melody. The melody of m1-4 is at the top of the voice. But the melody of m.5-8 is included in the inner voice of the right hand part. The melodies of m.1-4 and m.5-8 have a feeling of echo. The cadence of m.1-4 and m.5-8 is IAC. The Part A is C major.

In the m.1, the third chord is a secondary dominate chord, which is shown in < Figure 7>. It is used to show that the children are having fun and the bamboo horse makes a running sound like a horse's hoof.

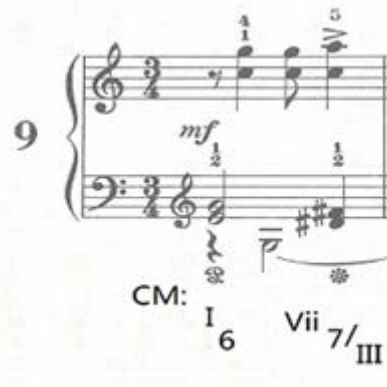


Figure 7. Secondary dominate of m.1.

Part B is begin from F major and modulation to d minor. Measures. 11-12 is extension of Part B's melody. And from m.15 is modulation to C major. In the third beat of m.15, the chord is Ger 6th. The cadence of Part B is HC. The composition of phrase is Period.

Part A's strength is Medium strong(*mf*), but Repeated Part A is stronger(*ff*). It Shows how excited children are when playing games.

## 8. Conclusion

This music is construct with 13 piece music. Around the theme of childhood stories, describing scenes of childhood funny story. In summary, we can find many common point. Most of the selected songs are in binary form, most of them are rounded binary, such as Next To Furnace, Bamboo Horse Game, unless song of Important Event. Compositions often use a simple motive of the song. In composition of phrase, there is no big phrase, in order to many little phrase. The rhythm is simple 4/2 , 4/3 or 4/4 beats. Sometimes it used for expressed special scenes or dances will employ

syncopation. Among the 6 selected pieces of music, Schumann mostly use simple harmony. These songs also contain many contrasts. For example, speed contrast, theme melody contrast, beat contrast, and so on. This music also includes literariness, use simple music melody expressed simple childhood story. Title music can reveal music thoughts. Those title music, some is expressed music subject matter, some is expressed different situation and Character, and other is expressed music content, but it can give information for listener, help them understand music, even though music more or less musical details. Altogether, this piano music divertimento is consist of simple songs. But it clearly expresses the meaning of the work.

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