

Preface

In the long history of human culture, music, as the most important form of the arts, has played a critical role in the social life of the people with its unique characteristics. In the ancient East, the trinity of poetry, music and dance was prevalent, with music being characterised by a “horizontal linear development”. On the other hand, with its longitudinal stereo sound, grand structures, fine orchestration and pleasing harmonies, Western music has become an enduring monument in the history of human music. Whether in the Classical, Romantic or other musical periods, there are a large number of musicians who have created classical works that deserve to be studied and explored, analysed and summarised by generations of music learners.

In this book, six representative works by musicians from major periods of Western music history, including Classical and Romanticism, are selected for study and interpretation in the form of “musical ontology”, with the aim of refining and exploring their compositional concepts and techniques. In this way the aesthetic characteristics and artistic values of the works are recognised and understood, summarised and outlined.

The six works are: Beethoven’s Violin Concerto in D major, Stravinsky’s The Rite of Spring, Gershwin’s An American in Paris, Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 6 in B Minor “Pathétique”, Liszt’s Symphonic Poem No.3 Les Préludes, and Brahms’s Symphony No. 1 in C minor.