

## MINUET IN F

This piece was written on July 16, 1762, in Salzburg. It is likely that Wolfgang's father, Leopold, wrote the bass line and had his young six-year-old son complete the melodies to fit the harmonies.

### Improving muscle memory:

"Muscle memory" refers to how the muscles in your fingers, hands, wrists, and arms *remember* the feel of the keys as each note is played. Your brain sends signals to the muscles in your body to tell them how to move. If you practice in the correct way, your muscles will learn much more quickly and you will develop technique that is reliable even when you are nervous!

In order to learn excellent "muscle memory," try the following practice strategies:

- 1) Divide the piece into four measure segments. Practice with a warm and full sound, and play solidly into the keys, with the metronome at the following speeds: ♩ = M.M. 76 and 92.
- 2) Next, use "**Impulse**" practicing:

There are three sixteenth-note patterns at both cadential points in this binary form:

A Section  
Measures 9-10:

B Section  
Measures 19-20:

B Section  
Measures 21-22:



Practice  
Strategy



Practice  
Strategy

### Four easy steps:

- 1) Break a phrase into short segments.

For example, play beats one to two, *a tempo*, listening for evenness. This short segment played quickly, evenly, as well as accurately, is called an “impulse.” Play each of these small patterns, or “impulses,” quickly, hands separately at first, so that you can feel the gesture in your arms and hands.

m.9

- 2) Then practice beats one to three in the same manner. Listen again for absolute evenness and clarity in the sixteenths, and do not rush.

m.9

- 3) Then practice the whole measure to beat one of the next measure, still playing one impulse.

m.9

- 4) Start impulse practice on any downbeat. You can say to yourself the fingerings of the right-hand patterns. In this way, you will train your mind to know the slight differences among the three patterns.