

ABSTRACT

Heitor Villa-Lobos, a native Brazilian, is one of the most significant Latin American composers, known for his distinct combination of indigenous music, European musical training and Brazilian folk music. In addition to his career as a composer, Villa-Lobos was involved with music education in Brazil. He was the chair of SEMA (Superintendence of Musical and Artistic Education). During his tenure with SEMA, he established music as a required subject in all schools through the study of choral singing. It was this period that led Villa-Lobos to compose his *Guia Prático* (Practical Guide), a collection of songs based on Brazilian folk music.

Based on the original material of the *Guia Prático*, Villa-Lobos composed eleven books for solo piano, each one containing five to six pieces. The result is a varied collection of piano pieces that reflects the spirit of Villa-Lobos and his Brazilian soul. Though intended for pedagogical purposes, many pieces are too complex for the novice pianist.

In this project, I have compared the existing manuscripts of the choral version of the *Guia Prático* and subsequent published versions, as well as the current piano version. With all the available scores, I began a comparison of each piece contained in the piano version. During this process, many questions arose regarding notation and editing. Therefore, in each piece I indicated the variants between scores. Some pieces are essentially identical to the original score but are included to complete the collection. The result is a revised and edited performance edition of the complete *Guia Prático for Piano*.