



## John Field

July 26, 1782 – January 23, 1837

John Field was born in Golden Lane, Dublin in 1782, the eldest son of Irish parents who were members of the Church of Ireland. His father, Robert Field, earned his living by playing the violin in Dublin theatres. Field first studied the piano under his grandfather (also named John Field), who was a professional organist, and later under Tommaso Giordani.

The Fields soon moved to London, where John studied under Muzio Clementi. Under Clementi's tutelage, he quickly became a famous and sought-after concert pianist. Together, master and pupil visited Paris, Vienna, and St. Petersburg. Although no one is really sure why, Field's decision to remain in the former Russian capital was likely due to Field acting as a sales representative for the Clementi Pianos.

In summer of 1802 Field and Clementi left London and went to Paris on business. They soon travelled to Vienna, where Field took a brief course in counterpoint under Johann Georg Albrechtsberger, and in early winter arrived in Saint Petersburg. Field was taken with the artistic life of the city.

Clementi left in June 1803, but not before securing Field a teaching post in Narva and "appointing" the young man as his deputy, so that Field would receive similarly high fees. After Clementi's departure, Field had a busy concert season, eventually performing at the newly founded Saint Petersburg Philharmonic Society.

As a result of his extravagant lifestyle, Field's health began deteriorating by the mid 1820s. From about 1823 his concert appearances started decreasing; by the late 1820s he was suffering from cancer. Field left for London to seek medical attention. He arrived in September 1831 and, after an operation, gave concerts there and in Manchester.

He stayed in England for some time, meeting distinguished figures such as Mendelssohn and Moscheles. In March 1832 his former teacher and friend Clementi died, and Field acted as pallbearer at his funeral. On Christmas Day 1832 Field was in Paris, performing his 7th Piano Concerto, which received a mixed reaction. After a series of concerts in various European cities, Field spent nine months in a Naples hospital.

His Russian patrons rescued him. He briefly stayed with Carl Czerny in Vienna, where he gave three recitals, and then returned to Moscow with his son Adrien. He gave his last concert in March 1836 and died in Moscow almost a year later, on January 23, 1837, from pneumonia. He was buried in the Vvedenskoye Cemetery.

# Classical Pieces

Week 1 - Nocturne in B flat Major

Week 2 - Nocturne in E minor

Week 3 - Sonata No. 2 in A major

Week 4 - Sonata No. 3 in C minor

# Composer Study

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Place of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

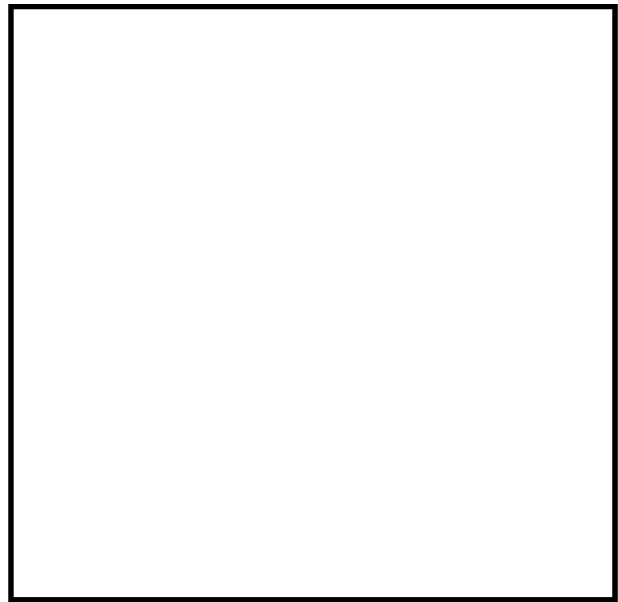
**Composer Fun Facts:**

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**Instruments Used:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Famous Compositions:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Further Study:**

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