

The Complete Works for Solo Piano = L'oeuvre pour piano seul. By Calixa Lavallée; compiled and edited by Brian Christopher Thompson. Vancouver: Avondale Press, 2016 Catalogue no. AvP-194. xvi, 127 pages.

The Avondale Press is a forty-year-old Vancouver-based publisher known for its editions of solo woodwind works (flute and recorder works are a particular focus), as well as solo voice and piano music. Although the company's origins date from 1973, its extensive publishing projects began in the mid-1980s with piano works by Jean Coulthard and Barbara Pentland. The publisher's current catalogue makes it clear that Canadian music continues to be a priority.

The collection under review is the complete extant piano music of the Canadian composer, Calixa Lavallée (1842-1891). Although Lavallée is a household name as the composer of *O Canada*, many of his other compositions have been lost, making it challenging to establish a comprehensive image of him as a composer. This is extremely unfortunate for, as editor Brian Thompson notes, Lavallée's compositional work extended far beyond the piano, and included such varied genres as sacred music, songs, comic operas, and instrumental pieces for band, small ensembles, and orchestra.

This collection of sixteen pieces can be largely described as light music, the large percentage of which are dance forms such as gallops, polkas, waltzes, and one mazurka. The level of difficulty of these works ranges from the intermediate (for instance, the Chopin-influenced *Grand valse de concert*, op. 6) to the quite challenging (*Une couronne de lauriers*, op. 10 or *Grand marche de concert*, op. 14 are representative of such pieces)—perhaps not a surprise for, as Thompson notes, the composer possessed a formidable technique and would frequently perform such works in concerts.

Thompson's informative introduction contains a short biography and descriptions of each of the sixteen works. All the previously known editions of these pieces were used to generate this critical edition, and any changes from the earlier editions are documented in the extensive critical notes. A selected bibliography is also included. Avondale Press is to be praised for the beautiful engraving of these works and the bilingual texts throughout the edition. This thorough and meticulous compilation of Lavallée's piano works deserves the attention of scholars and performers of Canadian music.

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