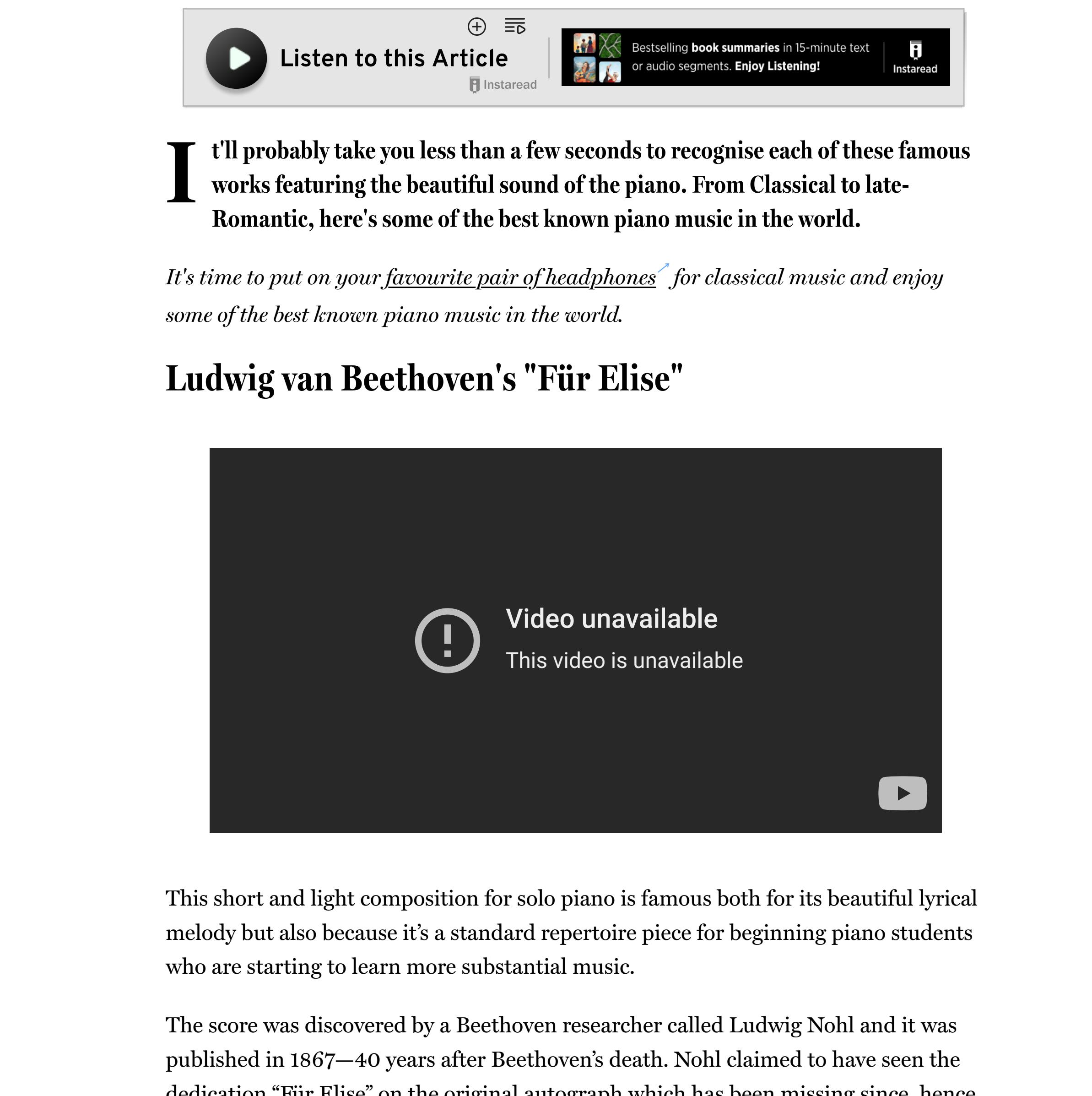


## 7 Best known classical piano pieces

BY READER'S DIGEST

1ST JAN 2015 MUSIC

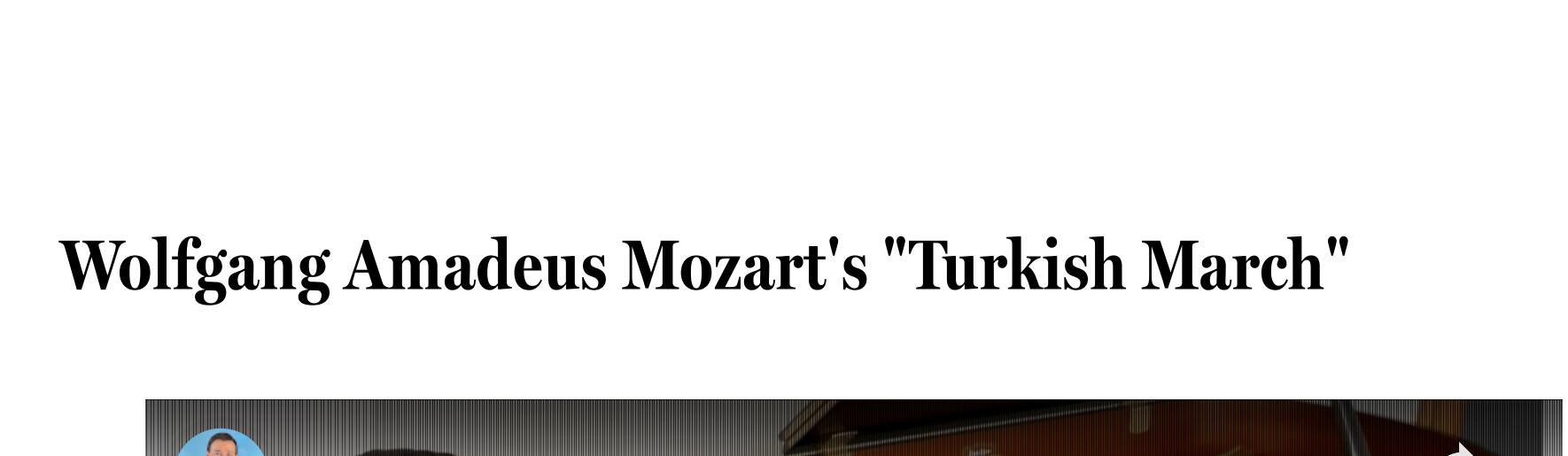
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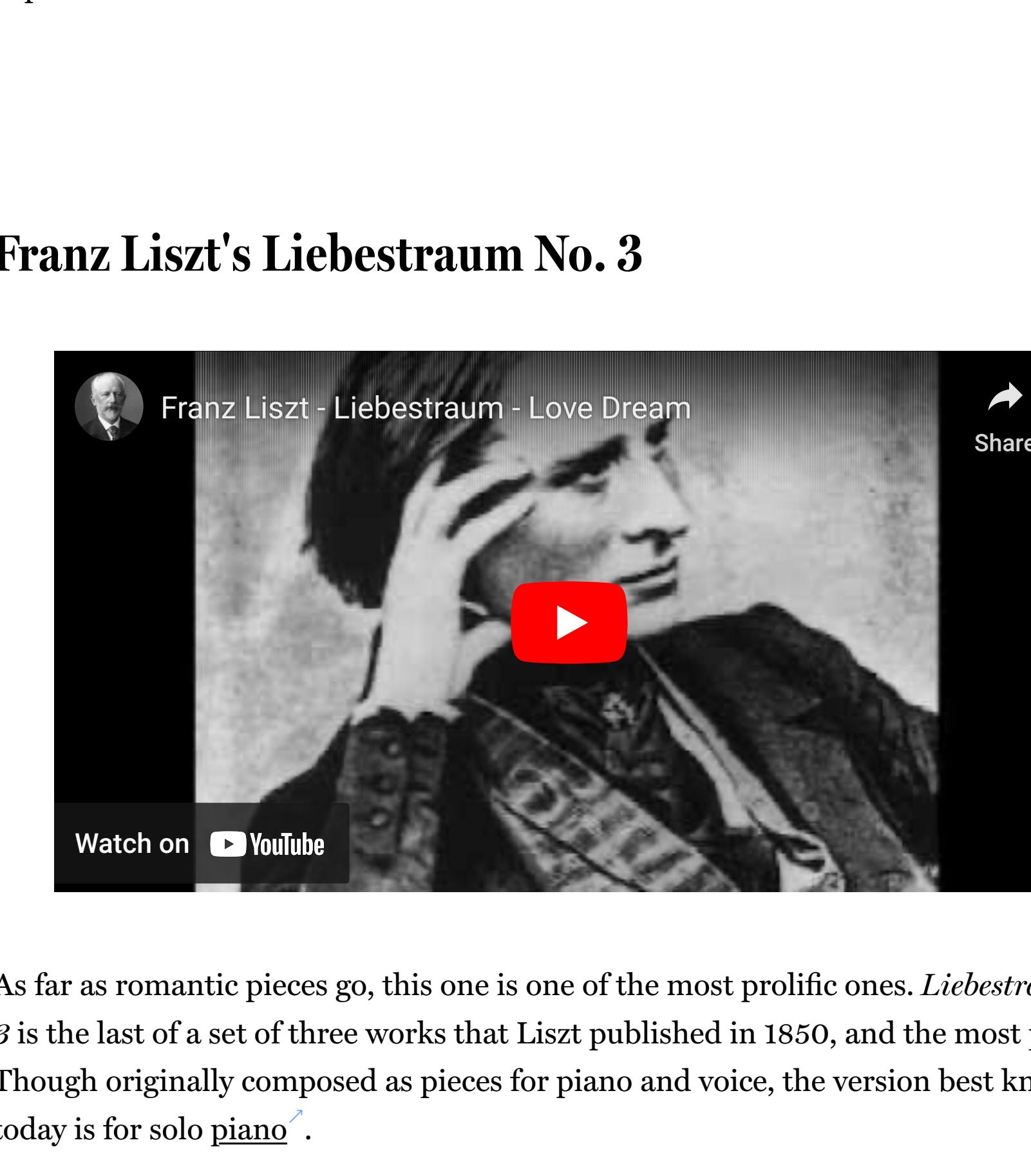
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Instead

**I**t'll probably take you less than a few seconds to recognise each of these famous works featuring the beautiful sound of the piano. From Classical to late-Romantic, here's some of the best known piano music in the world.

*It's time to put on your favourite pair of headphones for classical music and enjoy some of the best known piano music in the world.*

### Ludwig van Beethoven's "Für Elise"



This short and light composition for solo piano is famous both for its beautiful lyrical melody but also because it's a standard repertoire piece for beginning piano students who are starting to learn more substantial music.

The score was discovered by a Beethoven researcher called Ludwig Nohl and it was published in 1867—40 years after Beethoven's death. Nohl claimed to have seen the dedication "Für Elise" on the original autograph which has been missing since, hence there's some speculation regarding the identity of the mysterious Elise, with some claiming she was Beethoven's old flame, and others that she was a soprano whom the piece was written for.

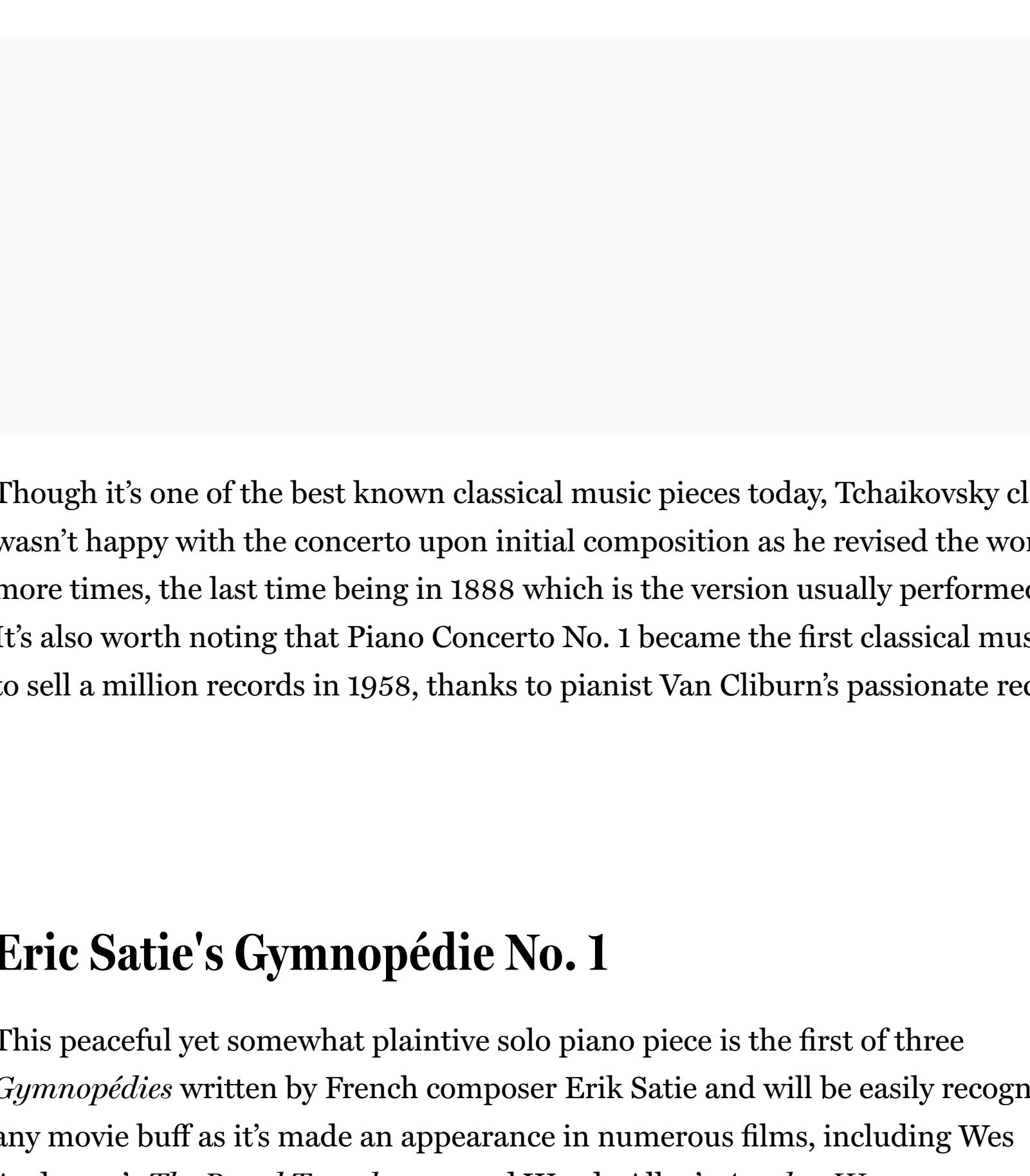
### Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Turkish March"



This fast and playful little number simply screams "Mozart". One of his biggest "hits", the "Turkish March", is actually the third and final movement from his Sonata No.11 K331 for piano. Simple, short and sweet, it was inspired by the sound of Turkish Janissary bands which were very fashionable at the time.

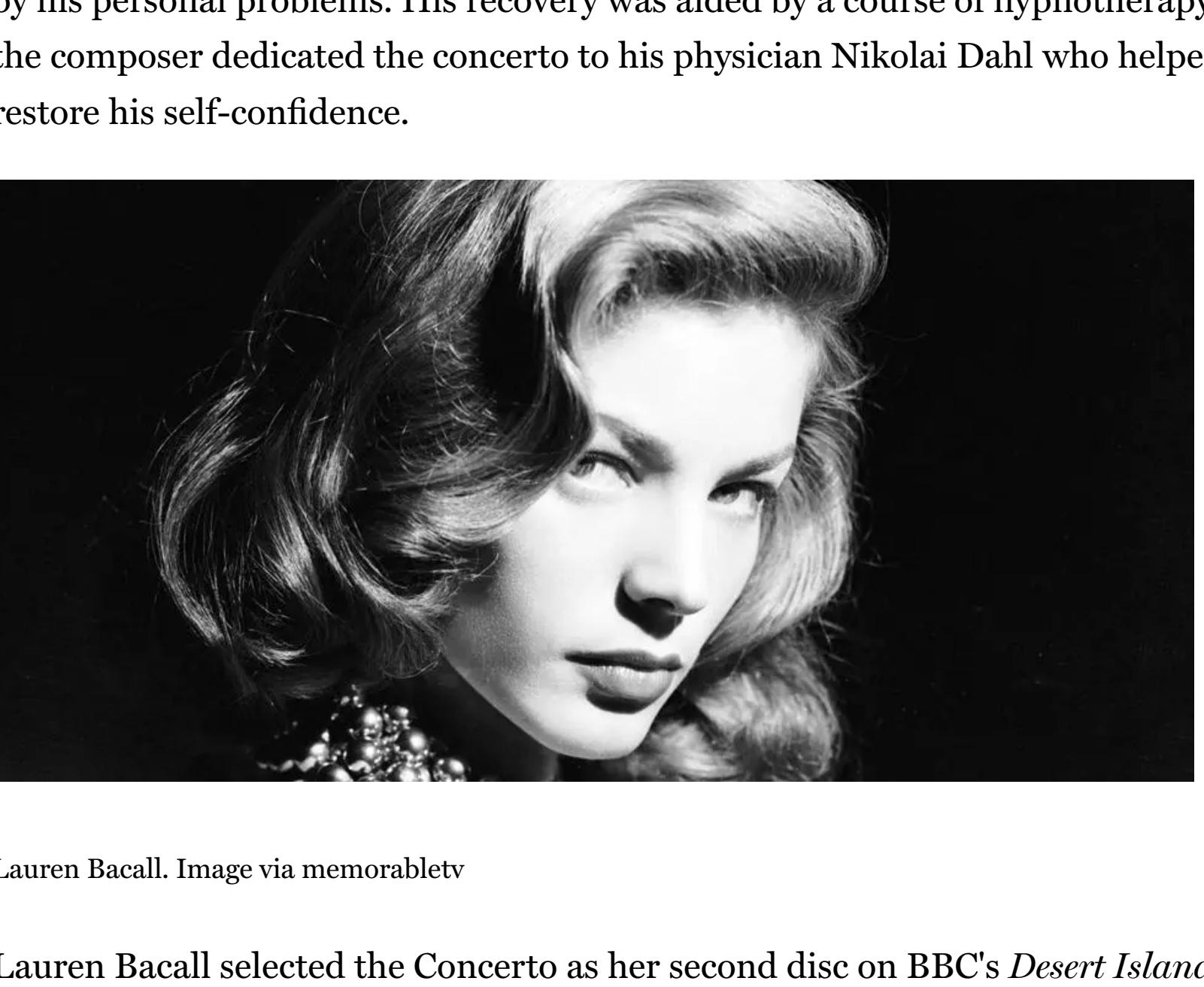
Four pages of the original score of the sonata were discovered in Budapest's National Széchényi Library in 2014, which matched the final page of the score, held in Salzburg. The first performance of the discovered score was given later that year in September.

### Franz Liszt's Liebestraum No. 3

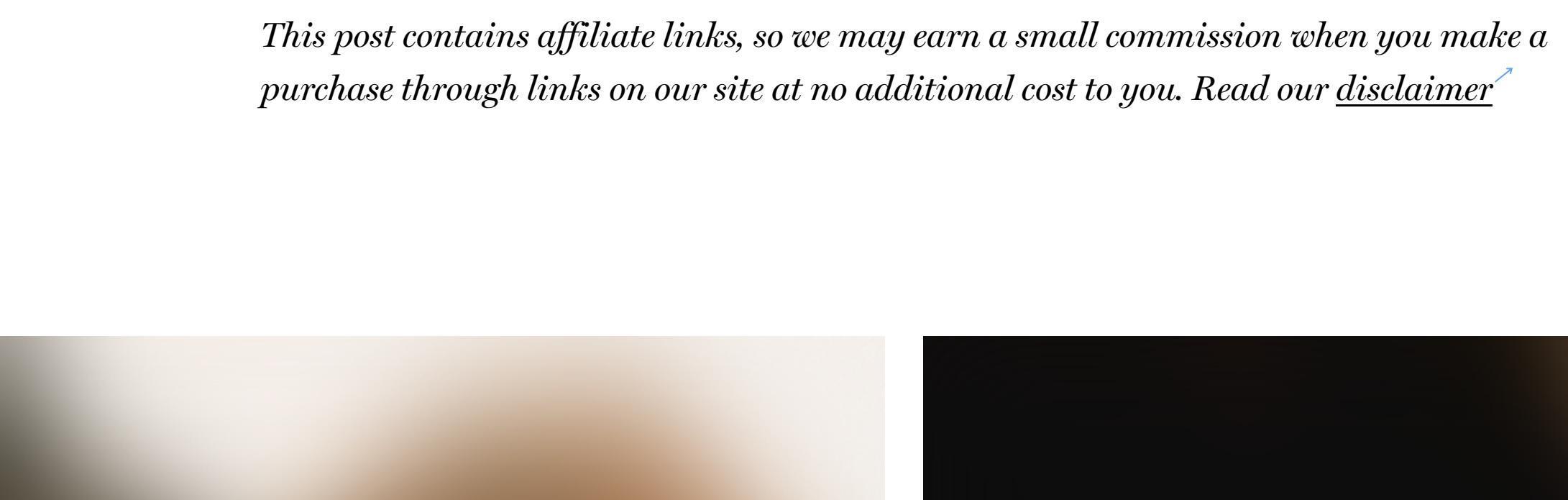


As far as romantic pieces go, this one is one of the most prolific ones. *Liebestraum No. 3* is the last of a set of three works that Liszt published in 1850, and the most popular. Though originally composed as pieces for piano and voice, the version best known today is for solo piano.

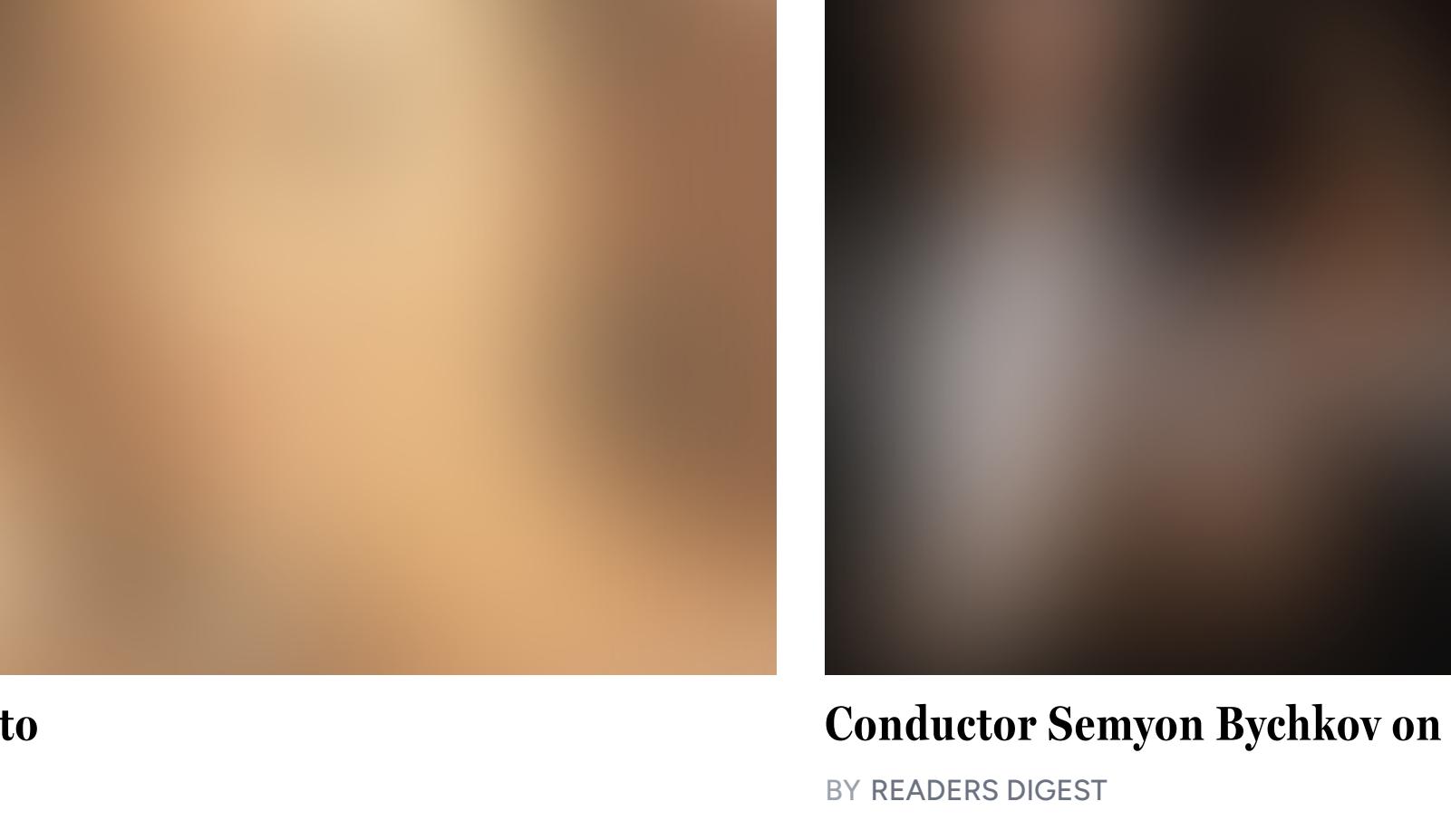
It's a notoriously difficult and complex piece to play, yet when listening to it, the beautiful, repetitive melodies flow effortlessly, lulling the listener into a state of relaxation.



As with many of the works on this list, *Liebestraum* found its place in the world of pop culture, appearing in the Hollywood classic *All About Eve* as well as serving as the inspiration for Elvis Presley's song "Today, Tomorrow and Forever" in the film *Viva Las Vegas*.



### Frédéric Chopin's "Minute Waltz"



Ah, Chopin. No classical piano music discussion can be complete without mentioning him. As one of the best known classical piano pieces today, Chopin clearly wasn't happy with the time he spent on it which is why he revised the work two more times, with the last time being in 1848 which is the version as he usually performed it now.

It's also worth noting that Piano Concerto No. 1 became the first classical music piece to sell a million records in 1958, thanks to pianist Van Cliburn's passionate recording.

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