



## **CMU professor completes 22-year music project**

Muzio Clementi's *Six Progressive Sonatinas for the Piano Forte, Op. 36* are among the most enticing and popular pieces ever written for piano. Many piano teachers would call these the finest and most pedagogically important sonatinas ever written.

Arthur Houle, DMA, CMU professor of music, discovered years ago that every published edition of the sonatinas is riddled with typographical errors. This includes the six editions published by Clementi himself.

Most editions today are based on Clementi's original version, first published in 1797. However, Clementi issued a revised edition around 1815 subtitled, "With considerable improvements by the author." Amazingly, this revised version is barely known to modern pianists.

Houle spent more than two decades tracking down primary sources from libraries around the world. He then collated them to produce the world's first definitive scholarly revised edition, free of errors. Houle's new edition also features uniquely extensive footnotes on performance practices and creative possibilities.

This new edition, published by Abundant Silence, has garnered critical praise by foremost experts in the music field. Houle's version is considered to be "comprehensive and reliable," "a rare combination of solid scholarship and creativity" and "brimming with erudition and wit."

The edition is favorably reviewed in the July/August issue of the London-based *International Piano* magazine. Stand out quotes from the review include: "...a unique edition in every way, permeated with warm wit and enthusiasm", "...the most scholarly edition of these famous sonatinas..." and "If teachers are looking for a way to excite pupils about authenticity then they could do no better than turn to Arthur Houle's Clementi project as a source of inspiration."

Arthur Houle is a CMU professor of music.

