



# SØFFREN DEGEN

Nocturno, op. 17  
for violoncello and guitar

TECLA EDITIONS

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# PREFACE

by Jens Bang-Rasmussen

## **Nocturno op. 17, for violoncello and guitar**

Melody is the foundation of Degen's music. The cello sings beautifully all the way through the piece. Degen truly treats the cello as an elegy. Elements of Scandinavian folk music especially fiddle music are to be found in this piece (bars 57-68).

The guitar part resembles the guitar parts of N. Paganini.

The piece is in Danish national romantic style. Degen's use of contrast between major and minor is a mean of expression throughout most of his own compositions. The melodic material is inspired from Danish folk songs. There seems to be small inconsequences in Degen's writing especially in the guitar part. After spending many hours with Degen's music, this appears to be a very sophisticated way of orchestrating cello and guitar.

# Notturmo

Soffren Degen (1816-1885)

Opus 17

Adantino

This musical score is for a duet of Violoncello and Guitar. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Adantino'. The score is divided into five systems, each with a Violoncello staff on top and a Guitar staff on the bottom. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, with the guitar playing a series of chords and the cello playing a simple melodic line. The second system (measures 7-11) features a more active cello line with slurs and the guitar continuing with a steady accompaniment. The third system (measures 12-16) includes a first and second ending for the cello, with the guitar providing harmonic support. The fourth system (measures 17-21) shows the cello playing a melodic phrase with a fermata, while the guitar accompaniment becomes more rhythmic. The fifth system (measures 22-26) concludes the piece with a final melodic flourish in the cello and a dense chordal texture in the guitar.