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Hey There! Welcome to episode 13 of Busy Kids Love Music, a podcast for music-loving families. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm thrilled that you're joining me today. (fade out music) This week, many in the United States will celebrate Valentine's Day, so I thought it only appropriate that we learn about some of the most famous love songs in classical music.

The gorgeous piano solo that you're listening to know is called Liebestraum No. 3. Liebestraum is German for "Dreams of Love". This is a set of 3 piano solos written by Franz Liszt in 1850 and were songs written after poems that depict three different forms of love. The last of the three songs that Liszt wrote is the most popular, and is written about unconditional, lifelong love. The poem begins with the words, "O love, as long as love you can!" You'll hear the same melody played throughout the piece, but each time Liszt makes it sound different. This piece is a complicated one to play but very well known. Singer Elvis Presley was a big fan of the song and used it as inspiration for his song "Today, Tomorrow and Forever" in the film *Viva Las Vegas*.

Our next piece is from the ballet *Romeo and Juliet* by composer Sergei Prokofiev, based on the play by William Shakespeare. If you're familiar with the story of *Romeo and Juliet*, you know that there is a famous balcony scene from the play where the star-crossed lovers profess their feelings to each other. Prokofiev extends this famous scene into three dances, and the "Love Dance" is the third dance of the three, where the two come together to profess their love -- or in the ballet, to dance. The ballet had an interesting debut. The play by William Shakespeare ends tragically, but Prokofiev wrote his ballet with a happy ending. So Prokofiev revised the ending to match Shakespeare's sad one, but then the choreographers told him the new music was undanceable. Eventually an agreement was reached, and the ballet finally premiered with the decision to keep Shakespeare's original ending.

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Have you heard this famous piece before? It is called Fur Elise and it was written by Ludwig von Beethoven, who was actually not very lucky in love. Fur Elise is German for “for Elise”, and it is actually the nickname for this well-known composition, whose actual name is “Bagatelle No 25 in A Minor.”

The funny thing is...there is some confusion about who Elise is. Most researchers believe the nickname is actually incorrect. The dedication on the manuscript was “For Therese”, but the copy writer published the name wrong -- whoops! Therese -- who is most likely the true dedicatee of “Fur Elise” was a woman to whom Beethoven proposed marriage in 1810. She didn’t accept his proposal.

However, there are some researchers who believe that Elise was the German soprano Elisabeth Rockel who starred in one of Beethoven’s operas. Beethoven fell in love with Elisabeth and wanted to marry her. Regardless of which Elise Beethoven wrote this beautiful piece for, he did not marry either of them. And in fact, this work was not published until about 40 years after

Be sure to download this episode’s listening calendar at busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/13 to listen to more famous love songs in classical music. If you enjoyed this episode, be sure to rate and review our podcast, and thanks so much for joining me today. I look forward to connecting with you again in 2 weeks!.