The “cimbalom”, musical instrument of the Hungarian Gypsies, may be traced back in history to the Orient and the Middle East. The cimbalom may be described as a 125 stringed instrument on a soundbox, mounted on removable legs. Its tone is a cross between the piano and the harp with a range of 4.5 to 5 octaves. The player creates tones by striking the strings with 8-inch long wooden or metal mallets. It is played with two carved wooden sticks about 8 inches long with the striking end wrapped with cotton, wool or leather creating sounds that range from bright to very soft or the tips of the mallets can be left bare, creating a sound similar to that of a banjo. Two damper bars and a foot pedal help to control the sounding vibrations of the cimbalom. The instrument stands about 3 feet high on its removable legs and weighs about 150 to 200 pounds. The strings are like piano wires, but custom made to fit the instrument. Music from classical to folk (gypsy) to jazz can be heard on the cimbalom.

Source: http://www.cimbalom.ca/cimbalom_history.aspx
Fanny Mendelssohn
(14 November 1805 – 14 May 1847) was a German pianist and composer. Her compositions include a piano trio and several books of solo piano pieces and songs. A number of her songs were originally published under her brother Felix’s name in his opus 8 and 9 collections. The music was written on coloured sheets of paper, and illustrated by her husband Wilhelm Hensel. Each piece was also accompanied by a short poem.