

Joseph Haydn's Trumpet Concerto

Written by bluesever

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Joseph Haydn wrote his "Trumpet Concerto in E flat major" in 1796. It is a piece in three movements, dedicated it to his friend Anton Weidinger, who had developed an improved trumpet which could play chromatically throughout all its range. With natural brass instruments being the norm, this represented an important advance. Weidinger's invention was not succesful, though, and natural trumpets were used until the 1830s, when valve instruments were first produced.

Haydn – Trumpet Concerto

Anton Weidinger was a member of the Vienna Court Orchestra. Weidinger had been experimenting since 1793 on a keyed trumpet, drilling four to six holes that were covered by key-operated pads, like those still found on today's woodwind instruments. The design was eclipsed in the nineteenth century by a system of valves, but it was a worthy effort to free the trumpet from its limited range, and it generated two treasures of the trumpet's concerto repertoire, this work by Haydn and another concerto that Weidinger commissioned from Johann Nepomuk Hummel.



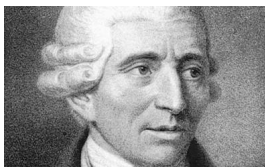
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Anton Weidinger

Joseph Haydn is rightfully known as the “father of the symphony”—his 104 symphonies span the entire early history of the form. However, Haydn also wrote concertos. He composed over 40 concertos, many of which are now lost, mostly for members of the fine court orchestra of his employers, the Esterházy family. Several of these have remained in the repertory, most notably his concertos for horn, oboe and trumpet.



Joseph Haydn

Of these, his trumpet concerto, his very last essay in the form, is the most famous, and among Haydn's most popular works. It is familiar in part because it is played often—it is one of the monuments of the solo trumpet repertoire. But it is also a truly first-rate piece of music, the first to contain truly free melodic writing for the instrument.

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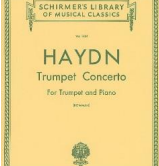
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Keyed Trumpets (Klappentrompeten)