

Music for a romantic salon

Laterna Magica

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At the end of the 18th century the recorder appeared to have vanished, forgotten, and most probably, eclipsed by the more illustrious flute. That was before its resurrection in England at the beginning of the 20th century and, several decades later, in most school classrooms in Europe.

But this disappearance had failed to take into account a rare and remarkable instrument originating from Hungary, namely the *csakan*.



Hybrid and pastoral at the same time, since it combines the flute with the shepherd's staff, the *csakan* was originally produced in the form of a flute-cum-staff and provided entertainment in several musical salons in Vienna in the early romantic period.

The instrument is most likely to have been invented by Anton Heberle at the very beginning of the 19th century and subsequently acquired several keys similar to the clarinet or the oboe. It inspired a repertoire written especially for its creator and its favour increased over the years from approximately 1806 to 1849. The musicologist and flutist, Hugo Reyne, has estimated that the repertoire for this instrument contains around 500 works, amongst which can be found compositions by the prolific Kraehmer, Diabelli (the publisher in Vienna of Beethoven and Schubert), Czerny, and even a certain Johann Strauss...

It is therefore high time that the dust be shaken from the *csakan* and that it be extracted from the museum! The majority of the music dedicated to this instrument has still to be edited, yet it lacks neither vivacity nor charm! Variations, galops, waltzes from Strauss, transcriptions of airs for opera... The music for the *csakan* is mostly captivating, light and virtuoso, but it is also able to delicately restore the intimate and delectable atmosphere of Viennese salons, where it shared its presence with several other delights, be they literary, pictorial or tempting to taste...

THE PROGRAMME



W.A. Mozart (1756 – 1791) :

Le nozze di Figaro K 492 : Ouverture (transcription Laterna Magica)

E. Krähmer (1795 – 1837):

Romance et Rondeau op. 30 pour le csakan et Pianoforte

W.A. Mozart:

Divertimento in D Major K 136 (transcription Laterna Magica)

Allegro, Andante, Presto

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A. Diabelli (1781 – 1858):

Notturmo op. 123, pour 2 csakan

Andante sostenuto, Menuetto, Andante cantabile, Rondo Allegretto, Marcia Allegro

E. Krähmer:

Variations brillantes, op. 18

G. Rossini (1792 – 1868):

Sonata for strings n°1 in G major (transcription: Laterna Magica)

Moderato, Andante, Allegro



NB : Certain pieces could be introduced or interspersed by free fantasias, improvised on the piano and taken from Carl Czerny's Opus 200 (Systematische Anleitung zum Fantasieren auf dem Pianoforte) Improvisation Treaty by Carl Czerny published in Vienna in 1829.