

Chamber Music Featuring the Auxiliary Clarinets

Heinrich Backofen (1768-1839)

Prominent German composer and educator. Method for Clarinet and Bass Horn (1803).

Known for his contributions to the (Hook) Harp and Clarinet.

- *Concertante, Op. 7* (1800?)
 - Medium concert work featuring both instruments, 13min
 - 1st Mvt: fanfare like. 2nd Mvt.: theme and variations
 - Like most classical pieces where Bass Horn alternation between lyrical clarion melodies and dizzying dazzles of full range motion and technique.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emPxGhFk_Kk&list=PLpLr-BEIZTZmq4mQ-nsafpWUOzuyyAw0-&index=1

- *Quintet in F, Op. 9* (1803?)
 - Significant concert work, 20min
 - 3 Mvts. 1. Fanfare 2. Somber reflection. 3. Theme Variations
 - Like Backofen's compositions, alternation between lyrical themes and dazzling displays of technique.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxSfg7Ek1-0&list=PLpLr-BEIZTZmq4mQ-nsafpWUOzuyyAw0-&index=2>

Johann Evangelist Fuss (1777-1819)

Austrian composer, conductor. Student of Albrechtsberger and Haydn.

Worked in Vienna and Pressburg.

- Quartet No. 2 in F (1806)
 - Charming classical four movement work, singing melodies, some virtuosic passage work, 17min

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Prolific and virtuosic composer, well known for every instrument and genre.

Was very interested in Clarinet, and Bass Horn by association with clarinetists Anton Stadler, Johann Stadler, and Anton David, Vincent Springer and makers Theodor Lotz, and Raymond Griesbacher,

- *Nocturne, K. 346 “Luci care, luci belle”* (1787)
- *Nocturne, K. 436 “Ecco quell fiero istante”* (1787)
- *Nocturne K. 437 “Mi lagnerò tacendo”* (1787)
- *Nocturne K. 438 “Se lotan ben mio tu sei”* (1787)
- *Nocturne K. 439 “Due pupille amabili”* (1787)
- *Canzonetta “Più non si trovano”* (1788)
 - Great works either as a set or individually, ranges from 1-3min, 12min total
 - Light and Tender Music with flowing melodies, reverberations, and reminiscences
 - 3 Bass Horns and Vocal Trio
 - K. 437 (2 A-Cl and G-BH)
 - K. 438 (2-Bb-Cl and F-BH)
 - Librettist Pietro Metastasio and inspired by Jacquin family.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyjcRk7jnyU&list=PLpLr-BEIZTZmq4mQ-nsafpWUOzuyyAw0-&index=3>

Leoš Janáček (1854-1928)

Czech music theorist, folklorist, publicist, educator, and composer.

Famous for incorporating Moravian and Slavic folk music into classical music.

Best known for operatic, orchestral, and chamber music works.

- *Mládí* (Youth) (1924)
 - Straightforward woodwind quintet, with added bass cl. 17min
 - Some passage work and tricky counting sections. Bass celf.
 - Four movements (Allegro, Andante sostenuto, Vivace, and Allegro animato) work full of interesting “youth” like motifs and musical ideas full of charm, humor, and wit along with unique instrumental pairings and timbral textures.
 - Interesting premier performance history includes players of the Brno Conservatory in October, 1924 but due to oboist crack and clarinetist broken spring and pretend playing, the performance was not well received.
 - First complete and successful performance came in November, 1924 in Prague with members of the Czech Philharmonic.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qGPa1ymzsQU&list=PLpLr-BEIZTZmq4mQ-nsafpWUOzuyyAw0-&index=6>

York Bowen (1884-1961)

English composer and pianist whose career enjoyed success and a long time.
Most of his pieces remained unpublished and unperformed until after his death.
Considered Romantic for his use of a rich harmonic language.
Also known for his *Clarinet Sonata*

- *Phantasie Quintet for Bass Clarinet and Strings*
 - Written between 1933-1936 in response by competition initiated by Walter Cobbett, 13min
 - Early recording by BBC Third Programme broadcast by Walter Lear
 - Three sections with slower thick outer sections with quick buzzing inner section

Igor Stravinsky (1882-1971)

Influential Russian, French, and American pianist, conductor and composer.
One of the most important and significant composers of 20th century.
Known for his *Three Pieces, Octet, and Soldier's Tale*

- *Berceuses du Chat* (1915)
 - Cat Lullabies, 5min
 - Cycle of Four songs for Contralto accompanied by 3 clarinetist (Eb, Bb/A, Bass)
 - Composed while living in Switzerland during WWI
 - Based on Russian Folk Songs found in collection of Pyotr Kiereevsky
 - First performance with clarinets given at one of Schoenberg's Society for Private Musical Performance, Vienna, 1919

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rizNduvJXfo&list=PLpLr-BEIZTZmq4mQ-nsafpWUOzuyyAw0-&index=4>

- *Elegy for J.F.K* (1964)
 - Commemorating the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, 2min
 - Requested by W.H. Auden
 - Part of Serial compositional period
 - Scored for Mezzo or Baritone accompanied by 3 clarinetists (2 Bb, F-Alto)
 - 4 Haiku stanzas each of 17 syllables

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ETaAwPV992s&list=PLpLr-BEIZTZmq4mQ-nsafpWUOzuyyAw0-&index=5>

Frederic Rzewski (1938-)

American contemporary postwar new composer and virtuosic pianist.
Inspired by secular and socio-historical and political themes
Improvisatory and other modern compositional elements

- Mary's Dream (1984)
 - A quite long interesting contemporary ominous Halloween like recital program work. '20
 - Clarinets (Bb Contrabass, Bb Soprano, D Soprano) Cello, Piano, Percussion, and Female Narrator
 - Text from Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein"
 - Contemporary new music composition that combines ominous sounds, motifs, and interjections along with breathing sounds and some narration describing Shelley's dream in creating a monster story.
 - Begins with Contrabass Clarinet, switches to Soprano near middle, and ends on D clarinet.
 - Difficulty: Very difficult for all instrumental parts. Contrabass clarinet part is very virtuosic in use of entire range from lowest notes to altissimo, quick note passages and long note phrases.

Webern, Anton. *Drei Lieder for Voice, Eb-Clarinet, and Guitar, Op. 18*

Diethelm, Caspar *Duo for Viola and Bass Clarinet, Op. 186* (1979)

Nyman, Michael. *Manhatta for Soprano and Bass Clarinet* (2003/13)

Rakowski, David. *Two Can Play That Game for Bass Clarinet and Marimba* (1995)

Richardson, Alan. *Trio Sonata for Viola, Bass Clarinet, and Piano* (1974)

Druschetzky, Georg. *Quartet for Bass Horn and Strings*

Fuss, J. E. *Quartet in F for Bass Horn and Strings*

Argento, Domincik *To Be Sung Upon the Water for Voice, Clarinet/Bass, and Piano*

Davis, Sharon. *Three Poems of William Blake for Soprano and Solo Low Clarinets (BS, CA, AC)*

Golijov, Osvaldo *Dreams and Prayers of Issac the Blind for Klezmer Clarinet (Bb, A, C, BH,BS) and String Quartet* (1994)