Johann Nepomuk Hummel (1778–1837)

Bassoon Concerto in F Major, WoO 23

Johann Nepomuk Hummel was an Austrian composer and pianist who played an important role in the transition between the Classical and Romantic periods. Having studied with influential musicians such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Hummel developed a musical style that combines Classical clarity and elegance with expressive melodies and virtuosic writing.

His Bassoon Concerto in F Major showcases the bassoon's versatility as both a lyrical and virtuosic solo instrument. Throughout the concerto, the soloist is given opportunities to demonstrate technical agility, expressive phrasing, and the instrument's warm and rich tone.

The first movement, *Allegro moderato*, opens with a lively orchestral introduction before the bassoon enters with its main themes. The movement balances elegant melodies with technically demanding passages, requiring both precision and musical flexibility.

The second movement, *Romanza: Andantino e cantabile*, presents a more gentle and lyrical character. <The bassoon takes on an almost vocal quality, allowing the performer to explore expressive phrasing, warmth of tone, and delicate musical nuances.

The final movement, *Rondo: Vivace*, brings the concerto to an energetic conclusion. Its lively recurring theme is contrasted with more virtuosic passages, highlighting the bassoon's agility and playful character.

Robert Schumann (1810–1856)

Fünf Stücke im Volkston, Op. 102

(Five Pieces in Folk Style)

Robert Schumann was a German composer and one of the most influential figures of the Romantic period. His music is known for its emotional depth, poetic imagination, and expressive melodies. Composed in 1849, *Fünf Stücke im Volkston*, Op. 102, was originally written for cello and piano. The title means “Five Pieces in Folk Style”, reflecting Schumann's interest in folk-inspired melodies and simple musical expressions.

The work consists of five contrasting movements, each presenting a different mood and character.

The first movement, *Mit Humor*, is lively and playful, with a humorous character. The second movement, *Langsam*, offers a gentle and lyrical melody, creating a warm and expressive

atmosphere. The fifth movement, *Stark und markiert*, brings the work to a powerful conclusion with strong rhythms and energetic expression.

In the bassoon and piano arrangement, the bassoon takes the place of the original cello, bringing its warm and expressive sound to Schumann's music. The piano plays an important role in supporting and responding to the solo instrument, creating an intimate musical dialogue.