

The Solo Works for Horn of Franz Strauss

A presentation at the 35th International Horn Symposium

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A Franz Strauss Timeline and Published Works

1822. Franz Strauss born, February 26, Parkstein, Bavaria.

1827. His soldier father leaves family, becomes policeman, and eventually sires seven additional children; Franz and his sister reared by his mother with help from her three brothers.

1829. Musical studies with his uncle Johann Georg Walter progress to extent that Franz performs the violin at a wedding dance. Studies violin, guitar, clarinet, and all brass instruments.

1837. Two of his uncles join the chamber orchestra of Duke Maximilian of Bavaria; Franz also engaged as a guitarist. Musical studies continue.

1847. Franz joins Munich Royal Court Orchestra as hornist.

Before 1851. First two published works for horn and piano, *Les Adieux* (Munich: Aibl) and *Fantasie*, Op. 2 (Munich: Falter)

1851. Married Elise Seiff, the daughter of a regimental band director.

1854. Franz is a widower at age 32; 10-month-old son died of tuberculosis, and cholera took the lives of his wife and young daughter. Franz also battles chronic asthma; takes time off horn.

1855. Franz performs viola on Munich premiere of *Tannhauser*; soon after returned to the horn.

Before 1859. New edition of *Les Adieux* published (Munich: Aibl).

1863. Married Josephine Pschorr, a daughter of the wealthy brewer Georg Pschorr.

1864. Son Richard Strauss born.

1865. Premiere performance of his *Concerto*, Op. 8; also performed on the premiere of *Tristan und Isolde*.

Before 1867. *Nocturno*, Op. 7 and *Concerto*, Op. 8 both published (Munich: Falter). Also by this date Franz primarily performed on the B-flat horn, making him one of the earliest and most significant proponents of this practice.

1867. Daughter Johanna Strauss born.

1868. Performs on premiere of *Die Meistersinger*.

Strauss said bluntly that he could play no more. "Then take your pension!" said the irritated Bülow. Strauss picked up his horn, went to the Intendant, and asked for his pension "at the orders of Herr von Bülow." As he was indispensable, [Intendant Karl von] Perfall had to use all his diplomacy to smooth the trouble out. [Incident at the dress rehearsal of Die Meistersinger, as related by Ernest Newman.]

1869. Performs on premiere of *Das Rheingold*.

1870. Performs on premiere of *Die Walküre*.

1871. Franz appointed professor at the Academy of Music in Munich.

Before 1873. *Empfindungen am Meere*, Op. 12 published (Munich: Falter).

1873. Made a Royal Chamber Musician by Ludwig II.

1875. Began to conduct "Wilde Gung'l", an amateur orchestra.

Before 1879. *Introduction, Thema, und Variationen*, Op. 13 published (Munich: Halbreiter).

1879. Franz awarded the Ludwig Medal for Science and Art.

1882. Richard Strauss composes his Horn Concerto No. 1, Op. 11; Franz performs work for family only. Franz performs on world premiere of *Parsifal* in Bayreuth.

1888. Richard Strauss composes *Andante* for his "dear, honored father on the occasion of his silver anniversary."

1889. Franz "retires" from court orchestra at age 67; continues to play viola and guitar, teach, and conduct.

Before 1891. New editions of *Nocturno*, Op. 7, and the *Concerto*, Op. 8 published (Munich: Aibl).

1896. Retires from conducting Wilde Gung'l and from the Academy of Music.

The method of Franz Strauss is first of all to emphasize tone quality. He always said: "Only by sustaining tones and by interval studies can you achieve a noble tone." Therefore each lesson began with tonal exercises. With his students he worked through the horn concertos, and the important parts from opera and concert literature. He never accepted a fee for his lessons. His main interest was to impart his experience and skill to hornists. [Recalled by Hermann Tuckermann, the last student of Franz Strauss.]

Before 1897. New edition of *Empfindungen am Meere*, Op. 12 published (Munich: Aibl).

1905. Death of Franz Strauss, May 31, age 83.

Principal Sources:

Ericson, John. "The Development of Valved Horn Technique in Early Nineteenth-Century Germany: A Survey of Performers and Works Before 1850 with Respect to the use of Crooks, Right-Hand Technique, Transposition, and Valves." D.M. diss., Indiana University, 1995.

Hofmeister, Adolph, and Hofmeister, Friedrich, eds. *Handbuch der musikalischen Literatur*. Vol. 4. Leipzig: Hofmeister, 1852. Vol. 5. Leipzig: Hofmeister, 1860. Vol. 6. Leipzig: Hofmeister, 1868. Vol. 7. Leipzig: Hofmeister, 1876. Vol. 8. Leipzig, Hofmeister, 1881. Vol. 10. Leipzig, Hofmeister, 1893. Vol. 11. Leipzig: Hofmeister, 1900.

Melton, William. "Franz Strauss: A Hero's Life." *The Horn Call* 29, no. 2 (February, 1999), 21-26, 103-111.

In addition to the six solo works for horn of Franz Strauss published during his lifetime listed in the above outline, Hans Pizka has also published an Originalfantasie, Op. 6, a second Concerto, Op. 14, a Lied ohne Worte, and Sentiments Romantiques by "G. Voss - Franz Strauss."

**For a recording of all five of the solo works of Franz Strauss for horn and piano that were published during his lifetime and the Richard Strauss *Andante* please refer to John Ericson, *Les Adieux* (Summit, 2003).

**For more information on the horn in the 19th century please visit my *Horn Articles Online* site on the Internet, http://www.public.asu.edu/~jperics/articles_online.htm