

Ferdinand David (1810-1873)

Concertino in E-flat for Trombone and Orchestra, Op. 4

- I. Allegro maestoso
- II. Marcia funebre (Andante)
- III. Allegro maestoso (Tempo primo)

Ferdinand David began his career serving as a violinist at Königstadt Theatre in Berlin from 1826-1829. In 1836, David went to Leipzig and became the concertmaster of the Gewandhaus orchestra under Felix Mendelssohn and held this post for the rest of his life. On March 13, 1845, he premiered Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64, and the piece was dedicated to him after this performance. David was also active as a composer, writing five concertos and other solo works for violin and orchestra as well as concert pieces for various wind instruments.

David's Concertino for Trombone and Orchestra, Op. 4, was composed in 1837. It was dedicated to Karl Traugott Queisser, who was a good friend of David, and also played in the Gewandhaus Orchestra, where David was the new concertmaster. There are many myths about how this concertino came about, but one of the most probable versions are that David rewrote one of his already mostly finished violin-pieces into this trombone concertino. Queisser initially asked Mendelssohn to write him a Trombone Concerto, but as he did not have the time for it, David might have suggested Mendelssohn to use his composition for this purpose. (If one compares the composition to David's surrounding works [e.g. Op. 3 & 5] there are clearly some parts that are much better composed than otherwise, which leads to a suggestion that Mendelssohn might have "looked it over"). The piece was premiered at the Gewandhaus with Queisser playing the solo part and Mendelssohn conducting. It was an immediate success, both in Germany and abroad.

The second movement was arranged for Violin and Piano by David and was played at his own funeral. The score is written for the following instruments: solo trombone, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, timpani and strings.

*--Jessica Nay and Stephen Larmore*