

Western Illinois University
2021 Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Conference

Abstract

Recorded Performance

Major: Instrumental Performance

Faculty Mentor: Suyeon Ko

Franz Doppler's "Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy" for Flute and Piano

Jessica Schaumberg

This piece was originally learned as part of the 2020 WIU Annual Concerto Competition.

Franz Doppler was a Polish romantic composer and flautist during the 19th Century. He was raised in a musical household, where his father taught him and his younger brother Karl to play the flute. Growing up, the two brothers would perform flute duets together— a practice that continued on into their professional musical careers. Eventually, they both joined the German Theatre orchestra in 1838, and Franz went on to later become the conductor of the Vienna Court Opera. As a composer, Franz wrote several operas, fifteen ballets, and even made a massive orchestral arrangement of Franz Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsodies." However, most of Doppler's work was composed for flutes. These pieces include flute concertos, show pieces, and duets. The "Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy" is one of his most famous pieces. Originally composed as a flute duet, the final version was written for solo flute and piano. Renowned flutist Sir James Galway later arranged the piece for flute and full orchestra, which has since become the most commonly performed version. Based on traditional folk songs from Hungary, the piece begins with an eerie, mystical, improvisatory setting that many people associate with the Roma people. It cycles through major and minor mode melodies as well as a brief cadenza, and concludes with an exciting rush to a grand finale.