

WORLD PREMIERE

of a newly discovered concerto by



JOSEF MYSLIVECEK
(1737-1781)

with pianist **CLARE HAMMOND**

Known by many as 'il divino Boemo', Josef Myslivecek was a close friend and mentor of Mozart who lived a life so scandalous that at times he shocked even Wolfgang Amadeus himself. He enjoyed great success on the international stage, both as an operatic and a symphonic composer, and was well established in his career when he met the young Mozart in Bologna in 1770. Myslivecek helped Mozart secure engagements and became a role model to him, both personally and musically. He is the most mentioned composer in the Mozart correspondence and the only one of whom Mozart spoke with affection and respect.

Myslivecek contracted syphilis later in life and lost his nose during the course of a botched operation intended to cure him. After deceiving Mozart's father in a business transaction, Myslivecek and the Mozart family became estranged and Myslivecek ultimately died disfigured and in poverty.

Keyboard concerto No. 1 in B flat major (12')

i. Untitled, ii. Andantino, iii. Allegro

Myslivecek's first keyboard concerto is held at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. Pianist Clare Hammond has obtained a copy of the manuscript, has typeset the work and is seeking an orchestral premiere. There is no record of a performance of the work so this could be a world premiere.

"I should advise my sister to play Myslivecek's sonatas with plenty of expression, taste and fire, and to learn them by heart. For they are sonatas which are bound to please everyone, and very effective when played with the proper precision."

Mozart, in a letter to his father, 1777

"There is no other composer in his entire life for whom Mozart expressed such affection and respect."

Daniel Freeman, scholar and biographer of Myslivecek

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