

VOL.4

LYRICAL REPERTOIRE
FOR THE HORN

FROM

The Romantic Era

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A LEGACY OF ELEGANCE
music for the horn
from Brussels and Liège
1860-1914

Music for horn and piano



BRAVE BELGIANS!

Edited by Jeroen Billiet
In collaboration with Jan Huylebroeck
and Steven Vande Moortele

HoGent School of Arts research fund

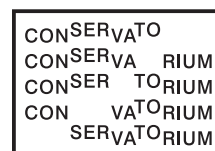
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Volume 4: A Legacy of Elegance

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A Legacy of Elegance

As explained in the general introduction, the three main Belgian training centers for horn players —Liège, Brussels, and Ghent— had common artistic roots but developed different accents through their years of existence. Belgian players had embraced the valve horn from the late 1830s onwards, and the appointment by François-Joseph Fétis of the prominent valve horn protagonist Jean-Désirée Artôt as horn teacher at the Brussels Royal Conservatory in 1843 had accelerated this process considerably.¹ Contrary to France, where the natural horn class and the valve horn class were two entirely different universes, Artôt invented a system in which natural horn (*classe de 1^o cor*) and valve horn (*classe de 2^o cor*) were both taught in the same class and by the same teacher.



Fig 1: Two horn players in the village band of Tellin (Luxemburg Province), one playing a natural horn and the other playing a Van Cauwelaert double piston valve horn, dated 9 September 1863. (author's collection)

A considerable number of horn works written at this time were compulsory pieces for the exams at the Brussels Conservatory. These works, characteristic of the transition period from natural to valve horn between roughly 1840 and 1870, are generally similar in style to the dominant brass repertoire written by Jean-Baptiste Arban, Jules Demersseman and the Distin brothers in France and England around the same time. On the Brussels horn exams, the valve and natural horn students often performed together in accompanied duets or in horn ensembles. One eloquent witness of this practice is the series of exam pieces written by Fétis. The four pieces selected for this volume are published here for the first time. Some of these pieces

¹ Jean-Désirée Artôt (Paris, 1803–Brussels, 1887) was teacher of horn at the Brussels Conservatory from 1843 to 1866 (in reality up to 1862). See Billiet 2008, pp. 88–89.

Méditation

pour Cor en Fa, Violon et Piano

Jean-Toussaint Radoux

arr. Jan Huylebroeck

Andante

Cor en Fa

Violon

Piano

Tempo rubato

Solo prélude ad libitum

rall.

4

p sostenuto et portamente

pizz.

p

p

10

arco

pizz.

p

arco

p

16

p

pizz. *arco*

cresc. *f* *cresc.* *f*

f *f* *p*

22

p *ben sostenuto* *sfz* *p*

pp *pp*

sfz

28

f *sfz* *p*

sfz *pp*

sfz

Intermezzo - Barcarolle

pour Cor en Fa et piano

Auguste Dupont

red. Jan Huylebroeck

Allegretto molto moderato (♩ = 60)

Cor en Fa

f ad lib.

Piano

6

ff

12

f

The musical score is written for Cor en Fa and Piano. The Cor en Fa part is in 6/8 time and begins with a forte (f) dynamic and an ad libitum (ad lib.) marking. The Piano part is in 6/8 time and begins with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The score is divided into three systems, with measures 6 and 12 marked at the beginning of the second and third systems respectively. A large 'sample' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

17

ff

ff

23

mf

p

p

p

27

f

31

8va

sf

sf

p

p

pp

pp

Concertino

pour Cor Chromatique en Fa

Charles Gaucet

Très Lent

Cor en Fa

Piano

ff *f*

Animato

p

rall. poco a poco *Moderato*

cresc. *p* *dim.*

Reo. *

10 *rall.* *a tempo*

Reo. *

13 *Allegro Moderato*

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. *

16 *rit.*

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. *

19 *rit.* *Animato* *poco rall.*

Reo. * Reo. * Reo. *

Duo

pour Cor et Harpe

Edmond Weber

Andante

Cor en Mi $\flat$

p

Harpe

p

f

4 *rall.* *a tempo*

p

p

7 *rall.* *a tempo*

f

p

10 *pressez* *rall.*

mf *cresc.* *f*

14 *a tempo*

p *p* *tranquillo* *p* *p*

17

p *p*

20

p

Nocturne

pour Cor en Fa

Léopold Wallner

arr. piano: Jan Huylebroeck

Moderato quasi andante

Cor en Fa

p dolce

Piano

p

pp

4

mp

7

p espressivo

p

p

10

13

16

19

Quatre Morceaux de Concours - François-Joseph Fétis

1. *Andante con moto* for 1st horn in F and strings
2. *Andantino con moto* for 2 horns in E-flat and strings (horn 1: natural horn, horn 2: valve horn)
3. *Allegretto* for 1st horn in F and strings
4. *Allegro moderato* for 1st horn in F and strings

Original Title: *Concours de Cor*

Composition: 1861 (1), 1865 (2), 1867 (3), 1868 (4)

Source: manuscripts Royal Brussels conservatory, series ARC-M-019 to 021

Original instrumentation: valve horn/natural horn and string quartet or piano

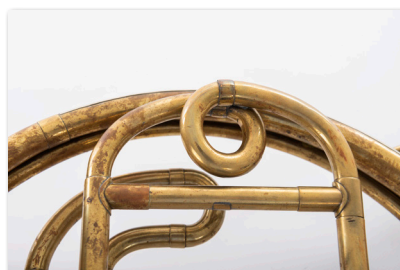
Arrangement: Jan Huylebroeck

Notes: Fétis wrote at least seventeen short sight-reading pieces for the horn exams in the period 1853–1869. Here we publish four that are representative both of the style and of the limited skills that were apparently required in the period right before the foundation of the “lyrical” romantic style in Belgium. They offer an interesting view of how the transition between natural and valve horn was handled in Brussels in the mid-nineteenth century. In most years, the pieces clearly distinguish between *first* (i.e., natural) horn and *second* (i.e., valve) horn, and in 1853, 1855, and 1856 the piece was not a solo work with strings but a horn ensemble. This practice came to an end around 1866, at the time when Louis-Henri Merck was finally appointed horn teacher in Brussels. Merck rejected the idea that the valve horn was secondary in importance and beauty to the natural horn, even though he would keep the old instrument as part of the educational system.¹¹

Today, all these pieces could make excellent short and rewarding encores to recitals. The 1861 exam piece was originally for second (valve) horn and was retaken as single exam piece in Merck’s class in 1869. The second piece from 1865 marks the very beginning of Merck’s teaching in Brussels. It is written for a natural horn in E-flat as principal, and a valve horn as second. The writing is very traditional, with a “melodic and singing” principal and a more chromatic second horn, playing mainly in the lower register, including larger interval leaps. It is hard to imagine that this piece was written in the same year as Brahms’s Horn Trio, op. 40... The audition exam from 1867 and 1868 are written in a friendly, non-demanding style, exclusively for the valve horn.

Bio: François-Joseph Fétis (Mons, 1784–Brussels, 1871) was one of the most influential Belgian musicians in the nineteenth century. After years in Paris, he became director of the Brussels conservatory in 1833, a position he would keep until his death. Fétis was a renowned music critic and an important figure in the development of musicology in the nineteenth century. His compositions are mainly pedagogical.

¹¹ The Brussels conservatory purchased in the 1880s two natural horns from Besson. the natural horn was a fixed part of the horn curriculum in Brussels up to 1930, but became less important after the appointment of Merck.



4 Morceaux de concours

1. Concours de 1er Cor (1861)

François-Joseph Fétis

red. Jan Huylebroeck

Andante con moto

Cor en fa

Piano

The musical score is written for a Cor en fa (F Horn) and Piano. The tempo is marked *Andante con moto*. The key signature has two flats (B-flat major), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four systems. The first system shows the beginning of the piece. The second system starts at measure 5. The third system starts at measure 9. The fourth system starts at measure 13. The Piano accompaniment is marked *p* (piano). A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

4 Morceaux de concours

2. Concours de 1865

François-Joseph Fétis

red. by Jan Huylebroeck

Andante con moto

Cor en Mi $\flat$ 1

Cor en Mi $\flat$ 2

Piano

f *p* *f* *p*

5

mf

p

9

mf

mp *f*

13

13

f

p

17

17

f

21

21

f

4 Morceaux de concours

3. Concours de Cor (1867)

François-Joseph Fétis

red. J. Huylebroeck

Allegro

Cor en Fa

Piano

f *dolce* *f* *p*

5

9

f *p* *p*

The musical score is for a piece titled '3. Concours de Cor (1867)' by François-Joseph Fétis, arranged by J. Huylebroeck. It is in 2/4 time and features a Cor en Fa (F Horn) and a Piano. The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) shows the Cor en Fa starting with a rest, then playing a melody marked 'f' (forte), followed by a 'dolce' (softly) section. The Piano accompaniment starts with a 'f' chord and then moves to a 'p' (piano) section. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the Cor en Fa melody, marked 'f', and the Piano accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) shows the Cor en Fa playing a melody with accents, and the Piano accompaniment with a 'p' (piano) section.

4 Morceaux de concours

4. Concours de 1868

François-Joseph Fétis

red. J. Huylebroeck

Allegretto

Cor en Fa

Piano

ff *p*

5

9

The musical score is for a piece titled '4 Morceaux de concours' by François-Joseph Fétis, revised by J. Huylebroeck. It is specifically the '4. Concours de 1868' movement. The instrumentation is for Cor en Fa (French Horn) and Piano. The time signature is 2/4, and the tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The piano part begins with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and later transitions to piano (p). The score shows measures 5 and 9, with a large 'Sample' watermark overlaid across the page.

Variations

pour 2 Cors en Fa avec accompagnement de piano

Louis-Henri Merck, op.12

Andante

Cor en FA 1

Cor en FA 2

Piano

5

8

11

15

Measures 15-17 of a musical score. The score is written for three staves: two treble staves at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measures 15 and 16 are mostly rests in the upper staves, with some activity in the lower grand staff. Measure 17 features a melodic line in the upper right treble staff and a bass line in the lower grand staff.

18

Measures 18-21 of a musical score. The score is written for three staves: two treble staves at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measures 18 and 19 show a melodic line in the upper right treble staff and a bass line in the lower grand staff. Measures 20 and 21 continue the melodic and bass lines with some chromatic movement.

22

Measures 22-25 of a musical score. The score is written for three staves: two treble staves at the top and a grand staff (treble and bass) at the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measures 22 and 23 show a melodic line in the upper right treble staff and a bass line in the lower grand staff. Measures 24 and 25 continue the melodic and bass lines with some chromatic movement.

26

Musical score for measures 26-28. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The middle staff is a single melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

29

Musical score for measures 29-30. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The middle staff is a single melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

31

Musical score for measures 31-32. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is a single melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The middle staff is a single melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, some beamed together. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands.

32

Andantino

THEME

36

41

4 Morceaux Imposés

3. Air d' "Orphée"

François-Auguste Gevaert

red. J. Huylebroeck

Largo assai *avec force et expression*

Cor en Fa *mf*

Piano *mf*

6

11

doux *pp*

The musical score is written for Cor en Fa and Piano. The Cor en Fa part is in the treble clef, and the Piano part is in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/8. The tempo is 'Largo assai'. The Cor en Fa part starts with a rest, followed by a melodic line. The Piano part provides harmonic support. The score is divided into systems, with measures 6 and 11 marked. The final measure is marked 'doux' and 'pp'.

17

p

23

p

28

écho

p

mf

33

a piacere

4 Morceaux Imposés

4. Air de "Magdalena"

François-Auguste Gevaert

red. J. Huylebroeck

Andante sostenuto quasi largo

Cor en Fa

Piano

cantabile

mf

4

p

7

f

f *p* *f* *p*

The musical score is written for Cor en Fa and Piano. The tempo is 'Andante sostenuto quasi largo' and the mood is 'cantabile'. The score is in 2/4 time. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The second system starts at measure 4 and features a piano (p) dynamic. The third system starts at measure 7 and includes a forte (f) dynamic. The score is marked with measure numbers 4 and 7. Dynamics include mf, p, and f. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

10

trill

p

12

mf

mf

14

mf

mf

f

17

f

Cinq Préludes - Paul Gilson

Original Title: *Cinq Préludes pour Cor ou Violoncelle avec accompagnement de piano*

1. *Andante*
2. *Allegro energico (pas vite)*
3. *Allegretto (très retenu, indolent)*
4. *Allegretto agitato*
5. *Moderato*

Composition: 1913–1914

Source: original manuscript in Brussels Royal Conservatory library, ARC-M-022

Original instrumentation: valve horn in F, piano

Notes: these five preludes, published in horn solo version by Louis Michiels immediately after World War I, stand apart from the majority of Belgian horn works in their style, novelty, and harmonic complexity. In some way the title is predictive of the more complex works that would be written towards the middle of the century by Vignery, Bouquet and Deroo (see Volume 3 of this series). Both Gilsons' *Cinq Préludes* and his earlier *Horn Quartet* (see Volume 5) show new ways in composition for the instrument and can be regarded as a reaction to the ruling lyrical style that was still practised by his contemporaries. Although these works were admired, they were seldom performed at their time.

Bio: Paul Gilson (Brussels, 1865–1942) studied with Gevaert in Brussels and obtained the *Prix de Rome* in 1889. He was a true game changer for musical life and compositional style in Belgium who wanted to found an authentic contemporary music scene with the composers collective *Les synthétistes*. Gilson is especially recognized for his wind instrument music.



Cinq Préludes

pour Cor ou Violoncelle

I

Paul Gilson

Andante

Cor en Fa

mf *f* *dim.*

Piano

mf *f*

4

p *peu* *pp* *mf*

mf

7

plus *dim.*

cresc. *dim.*

II

19

Allegro energico

f *cuivré*

23

27

dolce *mf* *cuivré* *f* *dolce* *p*

31

cuivré *f* *f* *ff*

35

Measures 35-38 of the musical score. The system consists of a single melodic line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, some with accents.

39

*non cuivré**cuivré**ff*

Measures 39-42 of the musical score. The system consists of a single melodic line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats. The melody starts with a slur over measures 39-40, then continues with eighth notes. The piano accompaniment features chords and single notes, with a *ff* dynamic marking in measure 41.

43

*léger**pp**pp*

Measures 43-46 of the musical score. The system consists of a single melodic line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats. The melody features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, with a *pp* dynamic marking in measure 45.

47

*ff**mf**ff*

Measures 47-50 of the musical score. The system consists of a single melodic line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. The key signature has two flats. The melody features eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, with *mf* and *ff* dynamic markings.

III

198

Allegretto

Measures 198-200 of the musical score. The right hand (treble clef) features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The left hand (bass clef) provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes, marked with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/8.

201

Measures 201-203 of the musical score. The right hand continues the melodic line with eighth notes. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and moving lines, maintaining the *pp* dynamic. The key signature and time signature remain consistent.

204

Measures 204-205 of the musical score. The right hand features a more active melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, with the *pp* dynamic indicated.

206

Measures 206-208 of the musical score. The right hand melody is marked with a pianissimo (*ppp*) dynamic. The left hand accompaniment includes chords and single notes, with a *dim.* (diminuendo) marking in the first measure and a *ppp* marking in the second measure.

IV

237 *Allegro agitato* ♩ = 192

237 *Allegro agitato* ♩ = 192

p

p

cresc.

240

p

243

cresc.

246

f

f

p

V

273

Moderato

mp

ppp

276

8va-

mp cresc.

mp cresc.

279

ppp

ppp



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