Maurerische Trauermusik

(Masonic Funeral Music) BRASS QUINTET with Horn Feature



Mozart was probably busy composing the opera Marriage of Figaro when he wrote Maurerische Trauermusik in November, 1785 for a commemoration of the death of two important Masons, Count Franz Esterhazy of Galathia and Duke Ernst August of Meckleburg-Streilitz.

This arrangement retains the essence of the original or orchestration—that of a grand solemn march. Mozart always used the horn in his Masonic music. So, to keep the tradition, a challenging melismatic horn part is the primary features of this setting, with the trumpets playing the cantus firmus.

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