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(Re-)Constructing Richard Mühlfeld? Rubato and Rhythmic Freedom in Brahms's Clarinet Sonata  
◆Op. 120 No. 2 Mvt. 1. [Lecture-recital]

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(Re-)Constructing Richard Mühlfeld?  
Rubato and Rhythmic Freedom in  
Brahms's Clarinet Sonata  
Op. 120 No. 2 Mvt. I.

Dr Emily Worthington (Independent Scholar)

# Introduction

# Sources

# Table of recordings

|                               |  |   |             |
|-------------------------------|--|---|-------------|
| <b>Ambrosius</b>              | <b>Suite Op.57 – (iii) Minuet, (v) Gigue</b>   | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>                       | <b>1925</b> |
| Beethoven                     | Septet in Eb Op.20 – (ii) Adagio cantabile   | Kammermusikvereinigung der Berliner Philharmoniker                  | unknown     |
| <b>Beethoven</b>              | <b>Trio for clarinet or violin, cello and piano in Bb Op.11</b>  | <b>Münchner Kammermusik-Vereinigung</b>                             | <b>1928</b> |
| Beethoven                     | Trio for clarinet or violin, cello and piano in Bb Op.11   | Amodio, Schrader, Schulze   | 1942        |
| Beethoven                     | Septet in Eb Op.20 – (iii) Tempo di minuetto, (v) Scherzo  | Bläser-Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Städtischen Oper, Berlin         | unknown     |
| Beethoven                     | Septet in Eb Op.20   | Eweler, Bläser-Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Städtischen Oper, Berlin | unknown     |
| Beethoven                     | Septet in Eb Op.20 – (iii) Tempo di minuetto, (v) Scherzo  | Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Opernhaus-Kapelle                       | unknown     |
| Beethoven                     | Septet in Eb Op.20   | Kammermusikvereinigung der Berliner Staatsoper                      | unknown     |
| Beethoven                     | Septet in Eb Op.20 – (iii) Tempo di minuetto, (v) Scherzo  | Kammermusikvereinigung der Berliner Staatsoper                      | unknown     |
| <b>Beethoven arr. Weigelt</b> | <b>Trio for 2 oboes &amp; cor anglais in C Op.87</b>   | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>                       | <b>1923</b> |
| <b>Beethoven arr. Weigelt</b> | <b>Variations on ‘Là ci darem la mano’ from Mozart’s Don Giovanni for 2 oboes &amp; cor anglais WoO 28</b> | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>                       | <b>1923</b> |
| Hindemith                     | Kleine Kammermusik Op.24 No.2  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig                              | 1925        |
| Klughardt                     | Quintet in C Op.79   | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig                              | 1923        |
| Laurischkus                   | Lethonia (Aus Litauen), Suite Op.22  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig                              | 1925        |
| Laurischkus                   | Lethonia (Aus Litauen), Suite Op.22 – (iii) Daina, litauisches Volkslied, (iv) Dorfserenade                | Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Opernhaus-Kapelle                       | 1919-20     |
| Lendvai                       | Quintet Op.23  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig                              | 1927        |

# Table of recordings

|                            |   |   |             |
|----------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| <b>Mozart</b>              | <b>Serenade in Eb K.375 [octet version]</b>   | <b>Bläser-Oktett der Staatsoper, Berlin, Kleiber</b>    | <b>1924</b> |
| Mozart                     | Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns & 2 bassoons in Bb K.240  | Berlin State Opera Orchestra, Blech                     | 1931        |
| Mozart                     | Quintet in A K.581  | Amodio, Strub Quartet                                   | 1941        |
| Mozart                     | Quintet in A K.581  | Dreisbach, Wendling Quartet                             | unknown     |
| Mozart                     | Quintet in A K.581  | Kammermusikvereinigung der Berliner Staatsoper          | unknown     |
| Mozart                     | Quintet in A K.581 – (ii) Larghetto, (iii) Menuetto   | Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Staatsoper [Berlin]         | 1923        |
| Mozart                     | Quintet in A K.581 – (ii) Larghetto, (iii) Menuetto   | Kammermusikvereinigung der Berliner Staatsoper          | unknown     |
| Mozart                     | Quintet in Eb K.452   | A. Schmid-Lindner, Münchner Bläser                      | 1929        |
| <b>Mozart</b>              | <b>Serenade in Bb K.361 ‘Gran Partita’ – (i) Largo; Molto allegro, (iv) Menuetto: Allegretto, (v) Romanze</b>                           | <b>members of Berlin State Opera Orchestra, Stiedry</b> | <b>1929</b> |
| <b>Mozart</b>              | <b>Serenade in Bb K.361 ‘Gran Partita’ – (i) Largo; Molto allegro, (iv) Menuetto: Allegretto, (vi) Tema con variazioni, (vii) Rondo</b> | <b>Berlin State Opera Orchestra, Blech</b>              | <b>1931</b> |
| Mozart                     | Serenade in c for winds K.388   | Bläser-Oktett der Berliner Staatsoper, Széll            | 1924        |
| Mozart                     | Trio for clarinet or violin, cello and piano in Eb K.498  | Amodio, Nel, Schultze                                   | 1942        |
| <b>Mozart arr. ?</b>       | <b>Adagio for 2 clarinets &amp; 3 basset horns in Bb K.411</b>  | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>           | <b>1928</b> |
| <b>Mozart arr. ?</b>       | <b>Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns &amp; 2 bassoons in Eb K.289 – (iv) Presto</b>   | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>           | <b>1928</b> |
| <b>Mozart arr. Weigelt</b> | <b>Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns &amp; 2 bassoons in Bb K.270</b>   | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>           | <b>1926</b> |
| <b>Mozart arr. Weigelt</b> | <b>Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns &amp; 2 bassoons in F K.213</b>  | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>           | <b>1926</b> |
| <b>Mozart arr. Weigelt</b> | <b>Divertimenti for 3 basset horns in Bb K.Anh.229/439b No.4 - (i)-(iv); No.1 - (v) Rondo: Allegro</b>                                  | <b>Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig</b>           | <b>1927</b> |

# Table of recordings

|                            |  |  |                |
|----------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Onslow                     | Quintet in F Op.81   | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig                                     | 1926           |
| Reger                      | Quintet Op.146 – (ii) Scherzo: Vivace                              | Dreisbach, Wendling Quartet  | unknown        |
| Reicha                     | Quintet in D Op.? – (i) Adagio, (ii) Scherzo: Allegro              | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig                                     | unknown        |
| Schubert                   | Octet in F D.803 – exc.?   | Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Staatsoper                                     | 1923           |
| <b>Schubert</b>            | <b>Octet in F D.803 – (ii) Adagio</b>                              | <b>Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Opernhaus-Kapelle</b>                       | <b>unknown</b> |
| Schubert                   | Octet in F D.803 – (v) Menuetto                                    | Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Opernhaus-Kapelle                              | unknown        |
| Schubert                   | Octet in F D.803 – (iii) Allegro vivace [as Scherzo], (v) Menuetto | Kammermusikvereinigung der Berliner Staatsoper                             | unknown        |
| <b>Spohr</b>               | <b>Nonetto in F Op.31 – (ii) Scherzo</b>                           | <b>Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Opernhaus-Kapelle</b>                       | <b>unknown</b> |
| Spohr                      | Nonetto in F Op.31 – (ii) Scherzo                                  | Kammermusik-Vereinigung der Opernhaus-Kapelle                              | 1918           |
| Spohr, arr. Schmid-Lindner | Quintet in c Op.52? – (iii) Menuetto: Allegretto [arr. for sextet] | A. Schmid-Lindner, Münchner Bläser   | 1929           |
| Thuille                    | Sextet in Bb Op.6 – (iii) Gavotte                                  | A. Schmid-Lindner, Münchner Bläser   | 1929           |
| <b>Thuille</b>             | <b>Sextet in Bb Op.6 – (iii) Gavotte, (iv) Finale</b>              | <b>Bläser-Vereinigung der Kapelle des Staatstheaters-Opernhaus, Berlin</b> | <b>1919</b>    |
| Weber                      | Grand Duo Concertant Op.48 – (iii) Rondo                           | Dreisbach, anon. (pno)   | unknown        |
| <b>Wunderlich, Otto</b>    | <b>Suite – (?) Scherzo (Nixenreigen), (?) Humoreske</b>            | <b>Erste Bläser-Vereinigung der Staatsoper, Dresden</b>                    | <b>1924-5</b>  |

# Ages of players

|                         |                    |                  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <i>Oscar Schubert</i>   | <i>1849–1933</i>   | <i>Berlin</i>    |
| <b>Richard Mühlfeld</b> | <b>1856–1907</b>   | <b>Meiningen</b> |
| [Charles Draper]        | 1869–1952          | London           |
| Carl Eßberger           | c. 1880 or earlier | Berlin           |
| Leonhard Kohl           | c. 1890 or earlier | Berlin           |
| Philip Driesbach        | 1891–1980          | Stuttgart        |
| Alfred Richter          | c. 1890–?          | Leipzig          |
| Willi Schreinicke       | c. 1895–1979       | Leipzig          |
| Karl Schutte            | c. 1900–?          | Dresden          |



# Instrumental Style

# Tone

‘Herr Muhlfeld’s tone is rich and sympathetic, with none of the penetrating harshness which sometimes makes the instrument so forbidding’

*Manchester Guardian*, 16 December 1892

‘The medium register did not offend the ear by its insufficiency, and instead of merely bridging over the gap between the Chalumeau and the acute register, appeared to have caught and blended the characteristic tone colours of its two neighbours. The Chalumeau was full and rich and of pure reeds [sic] tone, the acute section clear and sweet.’

‘York Musical Union/ Beethoven and Brahms’ Clarinet Trios’, *The Yorkshire Herald*, and *the York Herald*, 29 January 1900 p. 3.

# Tone: Leonhard Kohl

Beethoven Trio Op. 11, rec. 1928

# Tone: Alfred Richter

Schubert: Die Hirt auf dem Felsen, c.1924

# Attack and Articulation

Members of Berlin State Opera Orchestra, Stiedry, 1929

**Vibrato: Philipp  
Dreisbach**

Vivace. (♩ = 160 - 176)

Klarinette in A

Violine I

Violine II

Bratsche

Violoncell

Un poco meno mosso. (♩ = 144)

*mp espress. arco*  
*pp arco*  
*mp espress. arco*  
*sempre pp*  
*dolce*

28

*sempre pp*  
*espress.*  
*pp*

*quasi rit.* - - - - - *a tempo*  
*p* *pp dolcissimo*  
*ppp dolcissimo*  
*ppp dolcissimo*  
*pp espress. pizz.*  
*pp dolcissimo*

*dolcissimo*  
*sempre ppp e*  
*sempre ppp e*  
*sempre pp*

13788

*sempre pp*  
*dolcissimo*  
*dolcissimo*  
*pp*  
*poco espress.*  
*pp*

*quasi rit.* - - - - - *a tempo*  
*sempre ppp*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*p espress. sul A*  
*p espress. sul G*  
*pp*



# Musical Style

# Rubato: Carl Esberger

Weber: Concerto No. 1 in F minor, Mvt I

# KONZERT

Klarinette in B

Heinrich Bärmann gewidmet

Stimme nach Carl Bärmann. 1870\*\*)

Komponiert 1811

C. M. v. Weber  
Opus 73 · J 114<sup>\*)</sup>

Allegro ♩ = 108

6 28

43

54

62

68

72

83

92

100

*pp*

*Tempo poco ritenuto*

*p con duolo* *fp*

*p* *piu f* *f*

*accelerando poco a poco*

*f* *p* *3* *3* *3* *p* *cresc.*

**Lombardic**

*piu accelerando*

*f* *ff* *f*

*brillante* *tenuto* *a tempo* *morendo*

*ff* *p dolce* *pp*

*con anima*

*p* *p*

**Vibrato?**

*espressivo*

*mf* *3* *3* *f* *ff*

*poco rall.*

*f* *p* *perdendosi* *5*

\*) Friedrich Wilhelm Jähns, Carl Maria von Weber in seinen Werken. Chronologisch-thematisches Verzeichniss seiner sämtlichen Compositionen. Berlin 1871.

\*\*) Siehe Vorwort. See Preface. Cf. Preface.

*ff* *Con moto* ♩ = 100 *p* *p*

130 *lusingando e con espressione*

134 *cresc. cresc. f espressivo*

138 *sf*

143 *f*

Cadenza

*p* *cresc.* *f*

\*) Siehe Bemerkungen.    \*) See Comments.    \*) Cf. Bemerkungen ou Comments.

# Leipzig Gewandhaus Wind Quintet

|                           |  |  |         |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------|
| Ambrosius                 | Suite Op.57 – (iii) Minuet, (v) Gigue  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1925    |
| Beethoven arr.<br>Weigelt | Trio for 2 oboes & cor anglais in C Op.87  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1923    |
| Beethoven arr.<br>Weigelt | Variations on 'Là ci darem la mano' from Mozart's <i>Don Giovanni</i> for 2 oboes & cor anglais WoO 28 | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1923    |
| Hindemith                 | Kleine Kammermusik Op.24 No.2  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1925    |
| Klughardt                 | Quintet in C Op.79   | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1923    |
| Laurischkus               | Lethonia (Aus Litauen), Suite Op.22  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1925    |
| Lendvai                   | Quintet Op.23  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1927    |
| Mozart arr. ?             | Adagio for 2 clarinets & 3 basset horns in Bb K.411  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1928    |
| Mozart arr. ?             | Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns & 2 bassoons in Eb K.289 – (iv) Presto                               | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1928    |
| Mozart arr.<br>Weigelt    | Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns & 2 bassoons in Bb K.270   | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1926    |
| Mozart arr.<br>Weigelt    | Divertimento for 2 oboes, 2 horns & 2 bassoons in F K.213  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1926    |
| Mozart arr.<br>Weigelt    | Divertimenti for 3 basset horns in Bb K.Anh.229/439b No.4 - (i)-(iv); No.1 - (v) Rondo: Allegro        | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1927    |
| Onslow                    | Quintet in F Op.81   | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | 1926    |
| Reicha                    | Quintet in D Op.? – (i) Adagio, (ii) Scherzo: Allegro  | Gewandhaus-Bläser-Vereinigung, Leipzig | unknown |

Klughardt Quintet Op.  
79 Mvt. I

# Wind Quintet in C Op.79

August Klughardt  
Arr. & Trans. by J.G.Cucó

**Allegro non troppo**

9

18

A

144

Overdotting

p tranquillo

H

Precise ensemble

Agogics

p tranquillo

cresc.

154

Agogics

157

Straight, rushing

Agogics

cresc.

f

160

dim.



164

*p* Rubato

Portamento

*p* *dim.* *p*

169

*f* *dim.* Anticipation *p* *p dolce*

*p espress.* *p* *p*

174

*p* *espress.*

*espress.*

181

*p dim.* Anticipation *dim.* *dim.* *dim.* *dim.*

188

*poco a poco cresc.* *ff* *ff* *ff*

*poco a poco cresc.* *p poco a poco cresc.* *ff* *ff*

*p poco a poco cresc.* *ff* *ff*

*poco a poco cresc.* *ff*

194

Slower *p dolce* *p dolce* *p dolce* *p*

*p dolce*

# Organology



[www.museen.thueringen.de](http://www.museen.thueringen.de)



# Oscar Schubert and Fanny Davies

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# SONATE

ES DUR \* MI MAJEUR \* E FLAT MAJOR

Johannes Brahms, Op.120 N°2  
Rev. Oscar Schubert & Carl Friedberg

Clarinetten in Sib (B) *Allegro amabile* (♩ = 96)

Pianoforte *Allegro amabile* (♩ = 96)

*p* *mp* *mf*

(con Ped.)

*pp* *ppp* *pp*

(*tranquillo*)

*dol.* *p <=>* *p dol.*

[B] *f* *dim.* *p s.v.* *p s.v.*

[C] *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*pp* *dol.*

**D**

dim. *p* *cresc.* *dol.* *cresc.*

This system contains the first two staves of music. The upper staff begins with a dynamic marking of *dim.* and a *p* (piano) dynamic. It features a melodic line with several triplet markings. The lower staff is a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines, marked with *dol.* (dolce) and *cresc.* (crescendo).

*f* *sf* *f* *fp*

This system contains the third and fourth staves. The upper staff continues the melodic line with dynamic markings of *f* (forte), *sf* (sforzando), *f*, and *fp* (fortissimo piano). The lower staff features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs, with dynamic markings of *sf*, *f*, and *fp*.

*f* *mf*

This system contains the fifth and sixth staves. The upper staff has a dynamic marking of *f* and includes a red rectangular box highlighting a specific melodic phrase. The lower staff has a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and includes blue annotations for fingerings and slurs.

*f* *mf* *fp dim.*

This system contains the seventh and eighth staves. The upper staff begins with a red rectangular box highlighting a melodic phrase, followed by a dynamic marking of *mf*. The lower staff concludes with a dynamic marking of *fp dim.* (fortissimo decrescendo).

*p* *f*

3 3

*mp dim.* *mp* *p* *pp* *pp*

*fp dim.* *pp*

N

P

*dolce*

*p sub.*

*p sub.*

Steady

*molto dolce sempre* *dim.*

*molto dolce sempre*

O Tranquillo

Tranquillo

(*con Ped.*)

*cresc. rit. un poco* *f dim.*

*cresc. rit. un poco* *dim.*

(*Ped.*)

P

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Michael Bryant

Joylon Hudson

The British Library