Georg Gerson

(1790–1825)

Ecossaise

für Tanzorchester

G.98

Score

Edited by

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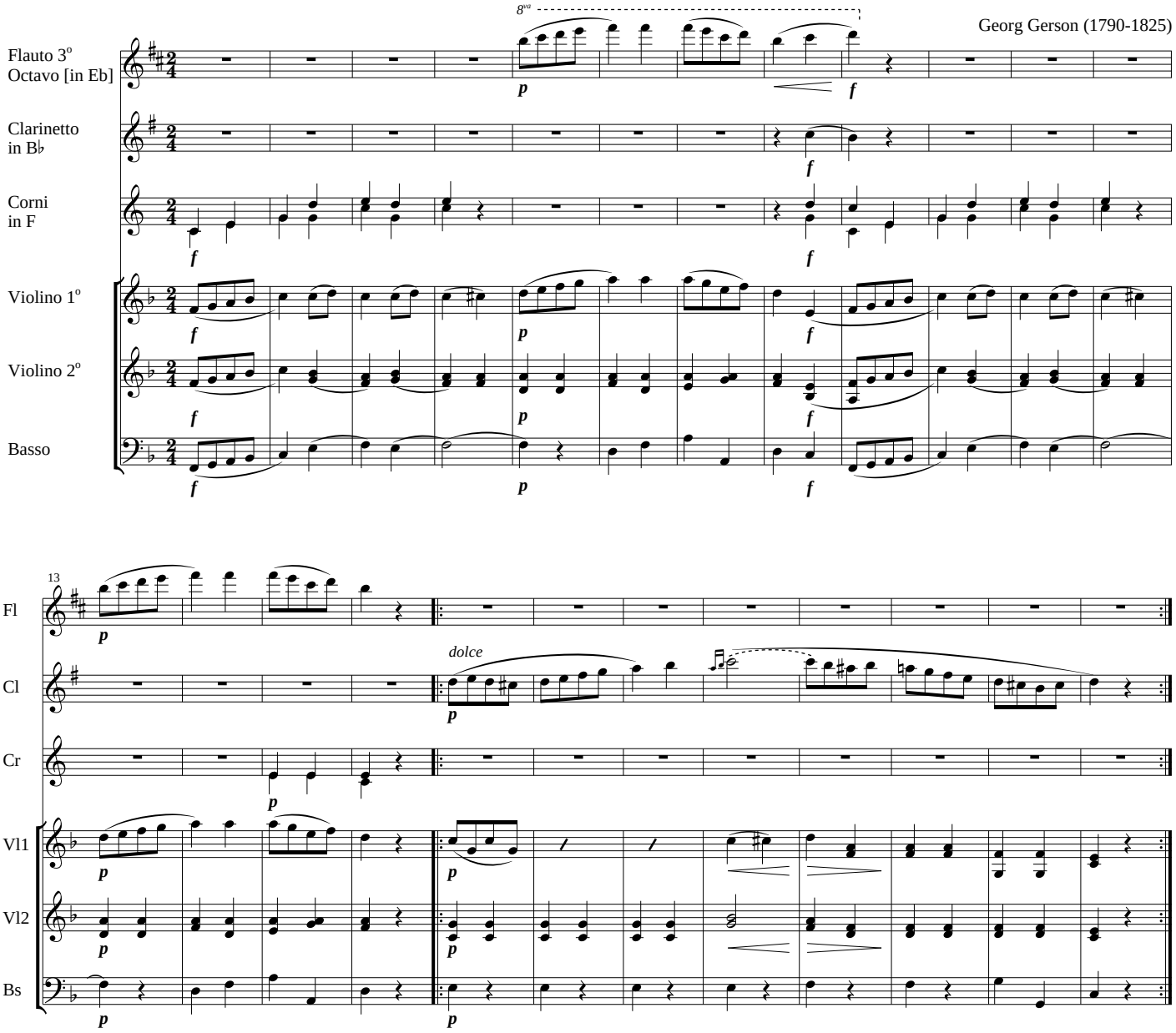
Ecossaise

Georg Gerson (1790-1825)



Critical notes

This score is the first modern edition of a dance, “Ecossaise”, G.98, for piccolo flute, clarinet, 2 horns, 2 violins and “Basso” (violoncello and double bass) by the Danish composer Georg Gerson (1790-1825). The quadrille is composed in Copenhagen, May 12, 1816

The source is:

Ms “Partiturer No. 4”, “George Gersons samling: mu 7105.0963 C II, 6b” (1823), a collection of manuscript scores by Gerson preserved at the Royal Library of Copenhagen, Denmark. The score is found on p. 83,

In the score the flute is named “Flauto 3^{o} Octavo”, a piccolo flute tuned in E♭. It was favored particularly in military circles[1] but is also found in other 19th century music like the symphonic poem “Die Weihe der Töne” by Louis Spohr (1784–1859), Op. 86.[2]

In his own thematic catalogue, (“Verzeichniss über Zwei Hundert meiner Compositionen”, “George Gersons samling: C II, 6 b mu 7105.0962”) Gerson notes that this piece was written “zu Hennenberg’s Hochzeit” (for Hennenberg’s marriage). Hennenberg is most likely Heinrich Carl Hennenberg, born 1758 in Fellingburg, Germany. He was wholesale trader and from 1815 owner of “Hotel Royal” in Copenhagen where the musical society “Det Musikalske Akademi” held its concerts. According to the parish register of the German church “Frederiks Kirke” in Copenhagen Heinrich Carl Hennenberg was married May 12, 1816.

In his manuscripts Gerson made use of various shorthand notations like slashed notes representing repeated notes. Such notation types are also found in music prints from that period like Gerson’s string quartet no. 5 (G.63) published as part books 1826. The full score of this modern edition comes in two versions: a score keeping as close as possible to the original notation and an alternative, ’contemporized’ score expanding the shorthand notations. In the contemporized scores the beaming of vocal staffs has been adapted to modern practices. Separate parts are contemporized as well.

Performance indications within brackets and dashed ties and slurs have been added by the editor.

[1] See Vienna Symphonic Library, `https://vsl.co.at/en/Piccolo/History)`

[2] See IMSLP, `https://imslp.org/wiki/Symphony_No.4,_Op.86_(Spohr,_Louis)`