



Sunday July 17 2022, 20:00

CONCERTO COPENHAGEN

Lars Ulrik Mortensen, conductor and artistic director

J. HAYDN (1732-1809)

**Symphony No. 47 in G major, Hob. I:47,
"Palindrom" (1772), 24'**

- I. Allegro
- II. Un poco adagio cantabile (D major)
- III. Menuetto e Trio
- IV. Presto assai

**Symphony No. 44 in E minor, Hob. I:44,
"Trauer" (1772), 24'**

- I. Allegro con brio
- II. Menuetto e Trio: Allegretto
- III. Adagio in E major
- IV. Finale: Presto

INTERMISSION

**Symphony No. 43 in E-flat major, Hob.
I:43, "Mercur" (1771), 25'**

- I. Allegro
- II. Adagio in A-flat major
- III. Menuetto og Trio
- IV. Allegro

Musicians

Violin: Frederik From, Jessenka Balic Zunic, Hanna Ydmark, Hannah Tibell, Gabriel Bania, Kanerva Juutilainen & Antina Hugosson
Viola: Judith-Maria Blomsterberg
Violone: Megan Adie

Oboe: Antoine Torunczyk & Lars Henriksson

Bassoon: Jane Gower

Horn: Emmanuel Frankenberg & Fabio Forgiarini

10:00 Artist talk

15:30 Kebyart

20:00 Concerto Copenhagen

22:30 Quatuor Hanson



About the music

Joseph Haydn (1732-1809):

Three symphonies (1771-1772)

From 1759 to 1795, Haydn wrote a staggering 104 symphonies. In addition, there are an almost endless number of chamber music and vocal works, operas, oratorios and concerts. At the same time, Haydn is reasonably called the founder of the Vienna Classics, the father of the String Quartet and the developer of the Sonata Form, and he made the symphony what it is today: a four-movement orchestral work with a contrasting 1st movement, a slow 2nd movement, a dancing 3rd movement and a festive finale. Among his students are Mozart and Beethoven, yes in fact all later composers stand on the shoulders of Haydn. Haydn's life, work and significance cannot be overstated.

The secret behind Haydn's impressive productivity can be attributed in part to isolation. From 1761 to 1790 he was employed as a court composer at Prince Esterházy's secluded castle on the border between present-day Austria and Hungary. The princely family was above average interested in art. Haydn calmed down and later said, "The prince was always happy with my music; I got praise and recognition, and could experiment. Because I was cut off from the world, there was no one to confuse or torment me."

The 1770s were marked by the dawning romantic era, called the Sturm und Drang period, in which the focus on human emotions was expressed as a counter-reaction to the rational ideals of the Enlightenment. The philosopher Rousseau as well as the writers Goethe and Schiller inspired Haydn to abandon the gallant and musically regular style. Haydn's Sturm und Drang works are music with humanity and individuality.

Symphony No. 44 'Trauersinfonie' from 1772 is the epitome of Sturm und Drang with its dark minor atmospheres, dramatic melodic lines, sudden contrasts, intense syncopes and unexpected modulations. The nickname Trauersinfonie (Grief Symphony) was not the composer's own idea. It came about long after Haydn's death, through the myth that on his deathbed he should have wanted the symphony played at his funeral.

Haydn was not in the habit of naming his symphonies. But in order to distinguish the 104 symphonies from each other, posterity has needed recognizable titles. Some of the nicknames are logical (for example, the Timpani Symphony, the Clock and the Farewell Symphony), while others seem directly misleading (for example, the Miracle, the Bear and the Philosopher).

Symphony No. 43 'Mercury' from 1771 also has a nickname that has nothing to do with music. The reference to Mercury may be due to the fact that the

symphony was later used as stage music in connection with a play. But it is pointless to listen for a portrait of the winged messenger of the Roman gods.

The symphony is also from the Sturm und Drang period. But the basic mood is differently mild and pleasant. The individuality is rather expressed in the exploration of unexpected time signatures and asymmetrical period divisions as well as the original idea of combining the symphony's movements with a three-tone banking motif, which is heard in the 1st movement's opening theme, in the 2nd movement's main theme and along the minuet.

Haydn's whimsical and humorous sense is expressed in Symphony No. 47 'Palindrome' from 1772. Here is finally a meaningful nickname. For the menu set is precisely a musical palindrome, i.e. the same from the front and back. The replay of the main theme is identical to the introduction - just played from behind. The trio (middle part) of the minuet is composed according to the same principle. Haydn has probably regarded the palindrome as a joke or as a tantalizing compositional leg span. The funny thing is that you as a listener do not immediately notice it.

The other three movements are palindrome-free. 1st movement is characterized by a characteristic punctured marching rhythm that gives the music a majestic touch. The slow 2nd movement is a theme with four beautiful variations. And after the palindrome minuet follows the captivating and deeply charming finale. (By the way, did you know that the fear of palindromes is called *ibophobia*?)

Mathias Hammer

About the ensemble

Since its first concerts in 1991, Concerto Copenhagen (CoCo) has developed into Scandinavia's leading orchestra in Early Music – Baroque, Classical and Early Romantic. With artistic director, conductor, and harpsichordist, Lars Ulrik Mortensen, at the helm, CoCo has become synonymous with a special, methodological approach to working with historical material. CoCo unites artistic authenticity and innovation through original and uncompromising interpretations, the music is given new life and renewed relevance to a modern audience. Since 1999, the collaboration between CoCo and Lars Ulrik Mortensen has led to an exciting artistic and musical journey – appreciated and praised by audiences and critics around the world. With a unique repertoire that combines well-known European music with lesser-known works of Scandinavian origin as well as new music, CoCo marked its 30th anniversary in 2021. In 2022 CoCo is DR P2 Artist of the Year.

Text from www.coco.dk/ da