

183. The Little Nightmusic

Backgrounds of S. Radic

The Serenade No. 13 for Strings in G major, K. 525 is one of the most popular compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. It owes its nickname *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* to Mozart's entry in his catalogue of works: "A little night music, consisting of an allegro minuet and trio. Romance. Minuet and trio, and finale. -2 violini, violae bassi." With night music he translates the term serenade into German, which describes a genre of light music that was traditionally performed in the evenings and often outdoors and was therefore often written for wind instruments. The "Little Night Music", however, is written for a chamber music ensemble of two violins, viola, cello and double bass (the voices are usually cast several times today). Moreover, the artistry of voice leading and the classical proportions of the movements indicate that the work was conceived more as demanding chamber music than as pure, "light" light entertainment music.

The composition was finished in Vienna on August 10, 1787, while Mozart worked on "Don Giovanni". However, it is unknown for which occasion or which client Mozart wrote it. It was probably never performed during his lifetime. As can be seen from Mozart's catalogue of works (see above), the Serenade originally had five movements. The sheet with the second movement is missing in his handwritten score; it is unclear whether it was lost or deliberately cut out. Alfred Einstein suspects that Mozart's Minuet in B flat major, KV Appendix 136 (498a) No. 3, is a piano score of the lost second movement of "Little Night Music".

1st movement - Allegro. This first movement is an allegro in sonata form. The first bar begins with a sequence of notes reminiscent of the opening of the Jupiter Symphony, which was composed shortly afterwards. The Allegro increases aggressively in the main theorem into a "Mannheim rocket theme". The second theme of the movement is more graceful and, as is usual in the sonata form, in the dominant key, here in D major. Exposure closes in D major and is repeated. The performance begins in D major and touches D minor and C major before the work returns to G major for the recapitulation. The movement ends in tonic (G major). (Source: Wikipedia)



Summary. The Little Night Music is a final point of Mozart's preoccupation with symphonic-instrumental secondary forms. It is an example of everyday music, mostly written as commissioned work for a specific instrumentation (large orchestra, string ensemble, quartet, various wind instrumentations, trio). Mozart, but also Haydn, Beethoven and Schubert, have written such works, for the listener it was light music, the composer himself set himself a high compositional standard.

"A Little Night Music" documents god-given musicianship and unsurpassed mastery in the application of musical forms. Despite its small size (performance duration approx. 16 minutes), this work is as perfect in its form as a great symphony. There is hardly any parallel in music literature where a work with the name of a composer is as identical as Mozart's most popular composition KV 525 (source: Musik Kolleg, Austria-Forum).



Step-by-Step-Program.

Tempo: 120
Auflösung: 4-4

Rhythmus 1

Rhythmus 2

Hi-Hat

Snare

B-Drum

Real-Time-Program.

Drums

Break

Strings

Guitar

Bass

The image displays a musical score for a drum machine program. It is divided into two main sections: 'Step-by-Step-Program' and 'Real-Time-Program'. The tempo is set to 120 and the resolution is 4-4. The 'Step-by-Step-Program' section shows two rhythmic patterns, Rhythmus 1 and Rhythmus 2, each over a 16-measure grid. Rhythmus 1 features a disco-style eighth-note pattern with a dotted bass line, while Rhythmus 2 is a simple eighth-note beat with a dotted bass line. The 'Real-Time-Program' section shows the accompaniment for these rhythms, including Drums, Break, Strings, Guitar, and Bass. The Drums part shows the Hi-Hat, Snare, and B-Drum patterns. The Break part shows a drum pattern with a dotted bass line. The Strings part shows a sequence of quarter chords. The Guitar part shows a sequence of eighth notes. The Bass part shows a sequence of eighth notes.

Programming instruction

According to the double accompaniment mode according to the music picture, two rhythms are also programmed here and used according to the scheme (1.+2.). Rhythm 1 is a famous disco version with the eighth lookup, which is played here simultaneously by the guitar and open-hi-hat. The constant bass provides a certain tension. The rhythm is completely "straight", i.e. it should not emphasize any parts of the beat. This will also make any "unpaired" bars sound good. Rhythm 2 is a simple eighth note beat with dotted bassphrase. Here the guitar stops in the accompaniment and makes room for quarter chords of the strings. In this way, the change of rhythm will come into its own. In the series WERSIMATIC CX700 (CD line) the rhythm 2 is to be programmed as MAIN rhythm and rhythm 1 as VARIATION, because the drums are only played in the variation. Monitoring, on the other hand, can reproduce two completely different programmes.