

Concert Piece No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 114

Felix Mendelssohn

Heinrich Baermann (1784-1847) was perhaps the greatest and most famous clarinetist of the first half of the nineteenth century. He performed throughout Europe and inspired three of the great composers of that era, Weber, Meyerbeer, and Mendelssohn, to write works for him. It is likely that Mendelssohn and Baermann first met at the home of Mendelssohn's father in Berlin, thus beginning a lifelong friendship. In 1833, H. Baermann and his son Carl, also a fine clarinetist, were to make a Russian tour and asked Mendelssohn to write a work for them using clarinet and basset horn. The result was the *Konsertstück No. 1 in F Minor, Op. 113*. The piece was such a success that they requested a second work which Mendelssohn wrote and sent to them four days later, *Konsertstück No. 2 in D Minor, Op. 114*. Both pieces are quite virtuosic in nature, about eight minutes in length, and in one continuous movement divided into three distinct sections in the traditional fast-slow-fast arrangement.