

“The Use of the Bassoon in Paul Hindemith’s Concerto for Trumpet, Bassoon, and Strings”

by Eloy F. Ramirez III

Texas State University

efr15@txstate.edu

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Poster Abstract

Despite being a standard piece of bassoon literature and despite being recorded several times, Paul Hindemith’s Concerto for Trumpet, Bassoon, and Strings (1949-52) received very little scholarly attention. Two dissertations that discuss this work focus specifically on the trumpet part (Bogard 1994 and Schendel 2007), but no scholarly writing investigates the use of the bassoon in this work. This poster, with the intent to further analytical research of wind literature serving the performer, will display an analysis of the use of the bassoon in Paul Hindemith’s Concerto for Trumpet, Bassoon, and Strings. The poster will furthermore examine the stylistic and performance practices, which should be taken into consideration when discussing and performing bassoon music composed by Paul Hindemith. His music distances itself from traditional musical approaches seen before the twentieth century, but it does not cross the line to atonality. Thus, Hindemith’s contribution to music in the 20th century is known for its expansion of tonal harmony, which influences the use of the solo instrument(s). To fully understand and execute Hindemith’s work for bassoon (and trumpet), examining his use of consonance and dissonance is of utmost importance. His pairing of trumpet and bassoon will be analyzed, including how these two instruments communicate with each other.

The poster will provide some background information in bullet points as well as summaries and visualizations of the analytical findings.

References:

- Bogard, Rickey Gene. The Trumpet in Selected Solo and Chamber Works of Paul Hindemith: Elements of Trumpet Technique and Their Relationship to the Gebrauchsmusik Concept. D.M.A. dissertation. Denton, TX: University of North Texas, 1994.
- Schendel, Amy. Professional Recording Project of Previously Unrecorded and/or Little-Known Solo Literature for Trumpet. D.M.A. dissertation. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 2007.