

Pizzicato-Polka

Foreword

Originally this work was written for string players, and the title says it all: the strings were played pizzicato, i.e. plucked with the fingers. You can imitate the effect of the 'short notes' on the recorder perfectly well.

This airy and humorous polka requires a playful performance: experimenting with the tempo is the motto. When it comes to playing together, *Pizzicato-Polka* is not always easy: additional evidence of the quality of the Viennese orchestras of the day.

For ensembles that do not have a bass recorder at their disposal, an alternative part for tenor recorder has also been provided. A performance with five recorders is possible as well, using this extra part to reinforce the bass melody.

Johann Strauss II wrote the famous *Pizzicato-Polka* together with his brother Josef.

Johann Strauss II

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899) was an Austrian violinist and composer of many waltzes plus a number of marches, mazurkas, gavottes and operettas. His most famous works include *An der schönen blauen Donau*, *the Kaiserwalzer*, *Wiener Blut*, *the Tritsch-Tratsch-Polka*, *Rosen aus dem Süden* and the operettas *Die Fledermaus* and *Der Zigeunerbaron*.

He came from a musical family. His father, Johann Strauss the elder, and his younger brothers Josef and Eduard were also composers, but Johann the younger is the most famous by far. During his lifetime, he became known as the waltz king. The popularity of the Viennese waltz is largely due to him: he lifted it from the dancing hall to the concert stage.

Johann Strauss II was respected by prominent composers of his time. Many of his works are still performed worldwide today.

Flanders Recorder Quartet

With their outstanding collection of over 150 recorders the Flanders Recorder Quartet, founded in 1987, travels the world. From north to south, east to west, this ensemble devotedly conveys the almost unlimited possibilities of the recorder, with their adventurous and original programming, crystal clear ensemble playing, distinctive style, and their virtuosic and expressive interpretations. The enthusiastic audience response and numerous positive press reviews after concerts and CD recordings speak for themselves. It is impossible to imagine the international recorder world without The Flanders Recorder Quartet. The group is celebrated for its tastefully worked-out arrangements and for the forty-plus compositions that have been dedicated to them. With a collection of volumes within the *De Haske Recorder Series*, the ensemble makes some of its extensive repertoire available to recorder players who are looking for a new challenge.