## An unknown symphony by C. W. [von] GLUCK?

A couple of years ago I bought a set of ten parts containing a symphony, bearing the name of 'Sgr. Gluck'. The parts were in a very bad shape, torn, crushed, folded and with blots of moisture. They were offered by dr. Werner Greve, music-antiquarian of Berlin, who himself had bought them from the estate of a dissolved monastery. The parts are named:

- 1 violino Imo (double)
- 2 violino 2do (double)
- 3 viola
- 4 violoncello
- 5 basso
- 6 cembalo
- 7 flauto trav.
- 8 trombe da caccia

Only the part for flauto trav[erso] bears the name Sgr. Gluck.

If genuine, this composition, a short symphony, may have been written by the German/Austrian composer Christoph Willibald Gluck (1714-1787), who studied with Sammartini in Italy. According to the 'Gluck Complete Edition' [Bärenreiter] there are about 18 symphonies in existence, the old 'Gesamtausgabe' mentions another 6, proved to be spurious. Our symphony is neither among the 18 nor the 6, so its authenticity cannot be proved (yet).

After having prepaired a score we could make an analysis and have a look at the style. It is quite possible the work is genuine after all, because there are many similarities between this and the genuine works already known. There are also stylistic similarities with the works of the Mannheim school and of the late Baroque. There still is a continuopart. If really a work by Gluck it must date from his early years, about 1740-1750.

The 'trombe da caccia' parts probably cannot have been intended for trumpets. They are written in C and fully playable – though difficult – on horns in high G. I know only one example where 'trombe da caccia' are prescribed: the motet 'Plaudat celum' by Francesco Feo, dated 1749 in a copiïsts handwriting. It is in the collection 'Musiclibrary of the 'Onze Lieve Vrouwenkerk', Realm-archives Maastricht), signature I/075. In that motet the parts are playable either on trumpets in high D, or on horns in high D.

There are three movements, the second slow movement is scored only for flute, strings and harpsichord. I have added suggestions metronomemarks, tempi and completed dynamics and some slurs.

It is certainly no masterpiece but a well-made composition by a young composer who still had a lot to learn.

Duration: 8 minutes

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## Symphony in G

C. W. von Gluck [?]































































