

# Friederich August Belcke (1795-1874 )

## **Belcke and the Danish connection.**

As far as we know the German Trombone virtuoso Friederich August Belcke toured Denmark three times: 1832, 1835 and in 1838.

Belcke had an association to the Danish Court - being on friendly terms with Frederik 7<sup>th</sup> to whom he dedicated two solo works for trombone. He wrote a coronation march for Christian the 8<sup>th</sup> which was published as a piano version in the same year as the coronation (1840).

Some years before (1835) Belcke had visited Copenhagen and together with his flute playing brother (Christian Gottlob Belcke) and members of the Royal Danish Court Orchestra made a "concert spirituel" in the Royal Palace Church. The concert spiritual was a concept that the Belcke brothers embraced. You can find numerous examples and concert programs where the brothers joined forces with the local musicians and made a concert together with a program consisting of sacred and secular music. At this concert, a young aspiring composer Henrik Rung took part both in the role as violon player (double bass) and as having some of his first compositions played. (Thrane: Cæciliaforeningen og dens stifter page.32).

**Schweizer-Klänge** was played at this event (Allgemeiner Musikalischer Anzeiger nr. 13 29<sup>th</sup> of March 1835) with a thorough description that it was played under the presence of his Royal Highness the Crown Prince Frederik (later Christian the 8<sup>th</sup>). Apparently, it had already become a "touring piece" since Belcke also played it in Hamburg (Hamburger Musikalische Zeitung No. 12 21<sup>st</sup> of March page 94). Whether the "Preghiera" (Prayer) was played on this concert is a bit more uncertain. Since there is a distinction in the dedications - the "Schweizerklänge" is in German and "Preghiera" is in Danish (possibly the copyist) and furthermore the dedication for "Preghiera" is to the King Frederik 7<sup>th</sup> which means that either the copyist has updated the dedication or the composition is made as a tribute to Frederik 7<sup>th</sup> when he became King in 1848. There is evidence that there has been a correspondence between Belcke and Chr. 8. - letter from 1838 - which is in the royal archives (*Vello Helk: Kongehusarkivet p.67*).

Belcke had a close relationship to the Danish court and wrote at least 3 works dedicated to respectively Frederik 7<sup>th</sup> (Preghiera?) and Christian 8<sup>th</sup> (Schweizer-Klänge 1835 and Coronation March 1840).

"Schweizer-Klänge" was part of a music collection donated to the Royal Danish Library from S.A.E. Hagen (Sophus Albert Emil Hagen 1842-1929). Hagen was a musicologist, music publisher and composer.

"Schweitzer-Klänge" is scored for "harmonie musik" - wind band - solo bass trombone, 1 flute, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons and 2 horns. The bass instruments are either bass horn (serpent or ophicleide) contra bassoon, violin (double bass).

I am indebted to my esteemed colleague prof. emeritus Mogens Andresen who made me aware of the "Preghiera" (Prayer) and its origin.

Niels Ole-Bo Johansen

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# Schweizer-Klänge

Solo Bass Trombone

für die Bassposaune  
mit militärischer Begleitung componiert und

*Seiner Königlichen Hoheit dem Prinzen Christian Friederich von Dänemark*

**Friederich Belcke**

edited by Niels-Ole Bo Johansen

## Introduzione

Andante

9

solo

Andantino

*mf dolce*

16

## Allegro

25

*mp*

32

39

*rallentando a tempo*

48

106

Musical notation for measures 106-114. The piece is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together in groups. There are several slurs and accents throughout the passage.

115

Musical notation for measures 115-123. Measure 115 features a trill (tr) and a wavy line above the staff. The tempo marking *Andantino* is placed above the staff. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 116. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is placed below the staff. The music continues with slurs and accents.

124

Musical notation for measures 124-132. The dynamic marking *pp* (pianissimo) is placed below the staff. The tempo marking *dolce* (dolce) is placed below the staff. The music features slurs and accents, ending with a fermata over a half note.





Belcke - Schweizer-Klänge

21 **Allegro**

B. Tbn. *mp*

Fl. *p*

Ob. 1 *p*

Ob. 2 *p*

Cl. 1 *p*

Cl. 2 *p*

Bb Hn. 1 *p*

Bb Hn. 2 *p*

Bsn. 1 *p*

Bsn. 2 *p*

Cbsn. *p*

Tba. *p*

Db. *p*

Tri. *p*

137

B. Tbn.

Fl.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bb Hn. 1

Bb Hn. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Cbsn.

Tba.

Db.

Tri.

3

3

3

4

The image shows a page of a musical score for a symphony orchestra. The page is numbered 18 and is titled "Belcke - Schweizer-Klänge". The score is for measures 137 through 141. The instruments listed are B. Tbn., Fl., Ob. 1, Ob. 2, Cl. 1, Cl. 2, Bb Hn. 1, Bb Hn. 2, Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, Cbsn., Tba., Db., and Tri. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamics. There are also some markings like "3" and "4" which likely refer to fingerings or breath marks. The page ends with a double bar line.