

“The Danish Trombone Heritage”

The repertoire in **The Danish Trombone Heritage** series comprises primarily of material that has either never been in print, been out of print or very is difficult to find. This is due to various circumstances. Most of the material has until recently been in the hands of various musicians/collectors who one way or other have gained access to this. Recently, most of this music has been collected at the Royal Library in Copenhagen – but contained in archives. Another part of the series has formerly been in print but is now out of print or very hard to obtain since the publishers previously owning the rights have not found it profitable to republish.

In early 2005, I was asked to edit some collections of etudes written by three Danish composers; Axel Jørgensen, Axel Hildingsen and Georg Allin Wilkenschildt. These are recorded on the CD box **Etudes** (CDK1058-60) and published by Edition WH. This work pointed me in the direction of finding more material from these composers and their peers. I was surprised to find a huge amount of material – all this circling around one person namely, Anton Hansen (1877-1947), who is the indisputable father of the Danish (Scandinavian) trombone tradition. He was the one to restart playing on the slide trombone in Scandinavia and through his entrepreneurial mind he got himself connected with basically who was worth connecting with in Europe; Paul Wesche (1867-1940) in Berlin and most of the French who’s-who of brass players. Among the French players was Joannès Rochut (1881-1952) who later was to become the principal trombonist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the editor of the Bordogni Vocalises which are known to most every trombonist today. Hansen was the first to establish a fine trombone class at the Royal Academy of Music in Copenhagen and his **School for Trombone** from 1941 was groundbreaking and is to this day still the backbone of Danish Trombone teaching.

Hansen was highly industrious and had a huge number of works written for him, his colleagues and students. This is the repertoire that is represented in **The Danish Trombone Heritage**. All this repertoire has been recorded on the CD’s “The French Connection CDK 1174 and “The Danish Trombone Heritage” CDK 1226-27.

In these editions I have tried to do a very gentle editing and thus keep true to the composers’ original intentions (dynamics, articulations, and legato lines) though some of these might seem controversial today, and only changed obvious misprints or inaccuracies.

Romance for Trombone by Joachim Bruun de Neergaard

Anton Hansen’s first meeting with Joachim Bruun de Neergaard (1877-1929) was rather a disastrous one. Hansen, who was a very fine pianist, was hired to play at a dinner dance at Skjoldnæsholm manor. A young man insisted on playing along with the tunes Hansen played: on a terribly out -of-tune ocarina. Hansen writes in his memoirs that his first thought was that the young man was slightly retarded. As it turned out, he was the son of the family living in the manor, which made the situation even more awkward. **Joachim Bruun de Neergaard** was not the slightest bit retarded. He was on the contrary highly intelligent and managed, in addition to his composition studies, to attain a degree in law with the highest honors.

The “**Romance**” for **Trombone and Orchestra**, here in the version for **Trombone and Piano**, reveals a composer with a very fine sense of the trombone’s singing qualities.

"The Danish Trombone Heritage Series"

Full Score

Romance

Op. 13

for Trombone and Piano

J. Bruun de Neergaard

edited by Niels-Ole Bo Johansen

Andante sostenuto

Trombone

Piano

p

7

14

Solo *legato*

p *cantabile*

A

21

77

Musical score for measures 77-80. The piece is in a minor key (three flats). The right hand features a melodic line with several triplet markings. The left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

81

Musical score for measures 81-83. The right hand continues with triplet markings. The left hand accompaniment includes a prominent triplet in measure 82.

84 **E** **Sempre piu agitato**

Musical score for measures 84-86. The tempo and mood change to "Sempre piu agitato". The right hand has a melodic line starting with a *mf* dynamic. The left hand features a complex accompaniment with a *mf cresc.* dynamic marking.

87

Musical score for measures 87-90. The right hand has a melodic line with a *ff* dynamic marking. The left hand accompaniment is also marked *ff* and features a complex, rhythmic pattern.

124

Musical score for measures 124-130. The piece is in a minor key (three flats). The bass line starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G2, a quarter note F2, and a half note E2. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand with a slur over measures 124-125, and a bass line with chords and eighth notes. A dynamic marking *p* is present in the first measure.

131

Musical score for measures 131-134. The bass line has a long slur over measures 131-134. The piano accompaniment includes triplets in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A dynamic marking *pp* is present in the first measure.

135

Musical score for measures 135-138. The bass line has a slur over measures 135-136 and a whole note G2 in measure 138. The piano accompaniment features octaves in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A dynamic marking *pp* is present in the first measure. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the word *Fine*.