

Lehre des Lebens. Song for voice, basset horn and piano

A propos de l'artiste

I am a chemist and served 50 years in this profession as professor of physical chemistry at the Martin-Luther-University Halle and as a scientific adviser for JNC Corporation in Japan. As a child I learnt playing piano, and as student I started playing the clarinet. Since this time I played in several amateur orchestras and in many chamber music groups. Since 1994 I play basset horn, edit music for basset horn, prepare arrangements of basset horn music and publish papers about the history of the basset horn. In cooperation with Thomas Grass I published the book 'Das Bassetthorn. Seine Entwicklung und seine Musik' and a catalogue of music for basset horn, the newest edition of which just appeared in freescores.

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A propos de la pièce

Titre: Lehre des Lebens. Song for voice, basset horn and

piano

Compositeur: Oestreich, Carl

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Carl Oestreich

Lehre des Lebens

für Bass-Stimme, Bassetthorn und Piano

Preface

Carl Wilhelm Eduard Oestreich (1800-1840) was born in Spremberg, a small town in Eastern Germany in a family of a city musician. As usual in such a case, he learnt several instruments, among them piano, harp and horn. His horn playing was brought to a masterly level in Dresden by a member of the Court Orchestra. In 1820 Oestreich went on a concert tour through Germany and in the same year he arrived in Frankfurt, where he was engaged as horn player in the orchestra of the Frankfurt Opera. Due to his weak health, already in 1832 he went in pension. But sometimes as temporary help he played harp in the orchestra and he worked as piano teacher.

Oestreich was a profilic composer. Already in the age of 16 he composed pieces for horn and orchestra for his brother, who also was horn player. The majority of his compositions is devoted to the horn, but also several operas and musical plays, symphonies and interlude music for orchestras, concertos for various instruments, instrumental pieces, especially with the participation of wind instruments, vocal music for solo and choral singing, and piano pieces have been preserved, mainly as manuscripts in the Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main.

Of special interest for us are Oestreich's compositions with basset horn. Since 1827 Oestreich was member of a Freemason lodge. Similar to Mozart, he contributed quite a lot of music for the service in the lodge. And also similar to Mozart he liked to use the basset horn for this music. Oestreich used the basset horn in 48 works.

Also the present song (Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main, Signum D-F Mus Hs 764) with the title "Lied – Lehre des Lebens für eine Singstimme mit Begleitung des Pasetthorn und Piano=forte von C. Oestreich. Zur Jahres-Schluß-Tafel im Jahr 5833 den 25. December, (Lied – Lesson of Life for a singing voice with accompaniment of the pasetthorn and piano=forte by C. Oestreich. For the year-end table in the year 5833, December 25th), was conceived as Masonic music for the end of the year 1833. The Freemasons had their own time calculation by adding 4000 to the normal year. The extensive inscriptions in the autograph were retained and only a few typographical errors were corrected.

We are indebted to the Universitätsbibliothek Johann Christian Senckenberg Frankfurt am Main for the consent to publication.

Dietrich Demus & Thomas Grass Halle & Arnsberg, February 2024

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Carl Oestreich 1800-1840 Ed. D. Demus











