

Wolfgang Gottlieb Mozart

Sonata KV292 in Bb major for bassoon & cello

Versions for several permutations of orchestral, band, and chamber music instruments edited by Klaus Smedegaard Bjerre (2014-2015)

With my obvious interest in making Beethoven's three duets for clarinet and bassoon available in playing scores addressing a large number of paired permutations of orchestral, chamber, and band instruments it may be no surprise that I have taken an interest in Mozart's sonata for bassoon & cello.

It is listed as #292 in the Köchel Verzeichnis, but it is not universally recognized as really being penned by Mozart. My own take is a wondering about a few unison passages, that I would not have expected from this master, but also that the music of especially the allegro movements is very worthwhile. A comparison with the Beethoven duets is inevitable. Beethoven writes sweeter melodies in his duets. His distribution of melodic material between the two parts also is much more even. Mozart's music is more edgy, and the bassoon clearly is the main soloist with the cello as the accompanist. That said fairness also demands me to admit I find Mozart's sonata having a deeper expressivity. And then the cello line has these absolutely wonderful passages starting at bar #210.

One source sees this sonata as written for bassoon and basso continuo thereby allowing for the cello to be replaced by a double bass playing octave down. I do not dismiss that idea, but I have not supported its execution in the present edition. Maybe I one day will be inspired to write a chord line for guitar or for the right hand of a piano/harpsichord. Until then I will only recommend performances with the original intervals between the instruments: first sounding interval being an octave and the very last three notes being unison. (Even if this was my original standing a few versions with the additional octave distance have been added, partially as a response to requests. They are marked 'continuo type' in the list added below here).

When teaching I preferred students playing real music rather than the so-called melodious etudes. Hence the idea of transposing this sonata for various pairings of instruments that rarely had any repertoire written for them by Mozart. The challenge then is to develop instrumental technique and sense of musicianship accordingly to serve this music faithfully. In support of this approach I have written out embellishments and also have added articulations, like I would have them pencilled in, if a student had played from my source, the first known print from around 1805.

The ranges of bassoon and cello have a very wide overlap. So the duets are best performed by pairs of instruments having such wide overlapping, or even identical, ranges. It is possible to pair instruments pitched a fourth apart like with the alto and tenor saxophones. With instruments pitched a fifth apart compromises may be necessary like with the version for soprano and alto saxophones, where I have chosen the lowest key possible on the soprano saxophone to avoid the very high range of the alto saxophone.

Most versions are made for pairs coming from identical types of instruments. Some versions are for instruments of different types, often because I know about the actual existence of such duos, often because that would be the only way to add repertory for an instrument rarely written for, at least in this present style of Mozart. As with the Beethoven duets the various versions within each key are fully compatible, if they meet the range requirements. The selection of versions is very wide, but I don't claim it is comprehensive. I will make further versions on request, if the ranges of the planned for pairs of instruments have the sufficient overlap. The list of versions by now encompasses 76 versions. It may be of benefit to use the search function of Adobe reader to find all available options for a specific instrument.

Original key of Bb major

In the original tenor octave:

Bassoon & Cello

2 Bass Clarinets

2 Bassoons

2 Baritone Saxophones

2 Ophicleides

2 Bb Euphoniums TC

2 Euphoniums BC

Bb Euphonium TC & Bass Tuba BC

Bb Euphonium & Eb Tuba all TC - brass band style

Euphonium & Bass Tuba all BC

In the super octave:

Modern Alto & Tenor Recorders

2 Flutes

In the soprano octave:

English Horn & Horn in F

English Horn & Viola

English Horn & Guitar

2 Bb Clarinets

Bb & Alto Clarinets

2 Alto Saxophones

Bb Cornet & Eb Horn - brass band style

Bb Trumpet & Bb Clarinet

In the bass octave:

2 Contrabass Clarinets

2 Contrabassoons

2 Contrabass Tubas

2 BBb Tubas TC - brass band style

Key of Ab major

In the mezzo octave:

Bb & Bass Clarinets

Bb Clarinet & Tenor Saxophone

Bb Clarinet & Bb Baritone

Alto & Bass Clarinets

Alto & Tenor Saxophones

In the baritone octave:

Baritone & Bass Saxophones

Key of A major:

Alto & Bass Flutes

Alto Flute & Viola

Alto & Guitar

Oboe d'Amore & Viola
2 Clarinets in A
Clarinet in A & Viola
Violin & Viola

Key of C major

In the soprano octave:

Alto & Bass Flutes
Alto Flute & Bb Clarinet
Alto Flute & Clarinet in A

In the tenor octave:

F Horn & Bass Tuba
F Horn & Contrabass Tuba - continuo type
2 Bb Euphoniums
2 Baritone Bugles in G – both must have 3 valves

In the contrabass octave:

2 Contrabass Tubas
2 BBb Tubas - brass band style

Key of Db major:

Soprano & Alto Saxophones
Tenor & Baritone Saxophones

Key of D major:

Oboe d'Amore & English Horn
Oboe d'Amore & Clarinet in A
2 Clarinets in A

Key of Eb major

In the super octave:

Oboe & English Horn
Eb & Bb Clarinets
Eb & Bb Cornets

In the alto octave:

2 Basset Horns
2 Alto Clarinets
Alto & Bass Clarinets
2 Horns in F
Horn in F & Bb Euphonium (treble clef)
Horn in F & Euphonium (bass clef)
Eb Horn & Bb Baritone - brass band style

In the bass octave:

2 Contralto Clarinets
Contralto & Contrabass Clarinets
2 Tubas
2 Eb Tubas - brass band style
Eb & BBb Tubas - brass band style

Key of F major

In the super octave:

C & Alto Flutes

Flute & Oboe d'Amore

Flute & Bb Clarinet

Flute & Horn in F - continuo type

Oboe & Horn in F - continuo type

Soprano & Tenor Saxophones - continuo type

Violin & Horn in F - continuo type

In the alto octave:

2 Basset Horns

2 Tenor Saxophones

In the bass octave:

2 Bass Tubas

2 Eb Tubas - brass band style

Key of G major:

2 Flutes - 2nd must have a B-foot

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8th – 2015

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