



Kalmus Orchestra Library

WOLFGANG AMADEUS

MOZART

A MUSICAL JOKE

(Ein Musikalischer Spaß)

for Orchestra

K. 522

FULL SCORE

EDWIN F. KALMUS, CO.

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INSTRUMENTATION

2 Horns in F

Strings

Duration: approx. 22 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's (1756-1791) *Ein Musikalischer Spaß* (A Musical Joke), K. 522, premiered in Vienna on June 14, 1787. Written for two violins, viola, bass, and two horns, this humorous divertimento parodies the blunders of less-skilled composers, featuring clumsy counterpoint, awkward modulations, out-of-tune horn passages, and a famously chaotic ending rife with harmonic missteps. While lighthearted on the surface, the piece also serves as a sly commentary on musical conventions and mediocrity in late 18th-century music. Today, it occupies a unique niche in Mozart's oeuvre—it is often programmed as a comic interlude in chamber concerts or educational settings, appreciated both for its wit and its insight into Classical-era musical norms.

Ein musikalischer Spaß

für 2 Violinen, Viola, Baß und 2 Hörner

W. A. Mozart, K. V. 522

Komponiert in Wien am 14. Juni 1787

Allegro.

Corni in F.

Violino I.

Violino II.

Viola.

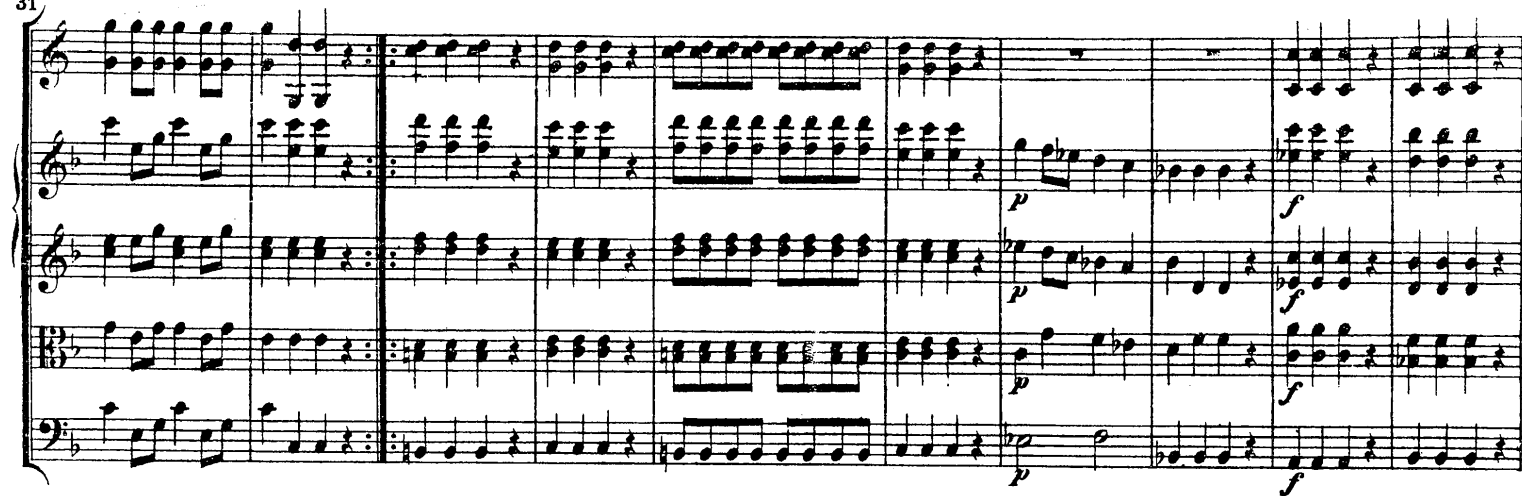
Basso.

9

16 **A**

24

31



System 31: A five-staff musical score. The top staff is a single melodic line. The bottom four staves are grouped by a brace on the left, representing a piano accompaniment. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte).

41

B



System 41: A five-staff musical score. The top staff has a melodic line with some rests. The bottom four staves are grouped by a brace on the left. The music continues with various rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano).

50



System 50: A five-staff musical score. The top staff features a melodic line with some triplets. The bottom four staves are grouped by a brace on the left. The music is more active with many eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte).

57



System 57: A five-staff musical score. The top staff has a melodic line with some rests. The bottom four staves are grouped by a brace on the left. The music features a mix of chords and moving lines. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte).

First system of music (measures 414-423). It features a piano introduction with a treble and bass staff. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note chords, while the left hand plays a bass line with trills. The system concludes with a double bar line and a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

Second system of music (measures 424-435). It begins with a *V* (Vivace) tempo marking. The right hand features a series of sixteenth-note chords, while the left hand plays a bass line with trills. The system concludes with a double bar line and a *pizz.* (pizzicato) dynamic marking.

Third system of music (measures 436-446). It features a piano introduction with a treble and bass staff. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note chords, while the left hand plays a bass line with trills. The system concludes with a double bar line and a *f* (forte) dynamic marking.

Fourth system of music (measures 447-457). It features a piano introduction with a treble and bass staff. The right hand plays a series of eighth-note chords, while the left hand plays a bass line with trills. The system concludes with a double bar line and a *f* (forte) dynamic marking.

Ein musikalischer Spaß

Violine I

W. A. Mozart, KV 522

Allegro

8

14

21

28

36

46

55

60

67

74

80

f *p* *cresc.* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

A B C D

Ein musikalischer Spass

Violoncello u. Kontrabaß

W. A. Mozart, KV 522

Allegro

The musical score is written for Violoncello and Kontrabaß in G major, 3/4 time. It consists of 82 measures. The tempo is marked 'Allegro'. The score is divided into sections A, B, C, and D. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *p* (piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, triplets, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line at measure 82.

7
15 A
22
29
35
42 B
50
57 C
64
71 D
77
82