

**Johann Wenth**<sup>1</sup> (1745-1801) began his career as a musician at the court of Count Anton Karl Pachta of Rayhofen in Citolby near Louny, Bohemia where he was born. He then went to work in Prague for Count Johann Philip Josef Pachta of Rayhofen (1723-1822), a cavalry officer, patron of music and composer, from whom he fled in 1771 to become an Oboe and Cor Anglais player in the service of Prince Schwarzenburg, playing 1st Cor Anglais to Ignaz Teimer playing 2nd Cor Anglais. From 1777 he played 2nd oboe for the Burgtheater in Vienna with Georg Triebensee (1746-1813) – father of Josef, playing 1st Oboe. In 1782 Wenth became a member of Emperor Josef II's famous Imperial 'Hofkapelle' Wind Harmonie. As a member of the Imperial Harmonie he most probably would have played the wind octets of Mozart - K375, K388 and the Gran Partita K361. During his lifetime Wenth's works for wind instruments were much admired and his profound knowledge of these instruments encouraged composers such as Mozart and Kozeluch to entrust him with the arrangements of their works.

It is believed that either the *Petite Serenade Concertante in F major* or the *The Divertimento in Bb major* was the Oboe Trio performed in the concert mentioned here:

*“Terzetto for 2 Oboes and Cor Anglais originated by Herr Wenth and performed by the brothers John, Franz and Philipp Teimer on December 23rd 1793 for the Tonkünstlersocietat in Vienna”.*<sup>2</sup>

This gives us an idea of the value of Wenth's work. It is believed that Beethoven was at this concert and was as a result inspired to write his op87 Oboe Trio in C major and the Variations on Mozart's 'La ci darem la Mano'.

Wenth also wrote the *Variations on a Theme by Haydn* and *Variations on a Theme by Paisiello*, and the as yet unpublished *Pas de Deux in C major del Signore e Signora Vigano* along with five other oboe trios the Lonarc Oboe Trio members rediscovered in the Český Krumlov archive in July 2018, along with many *Partias* composed for the Schwarzenberg Wind Harmonie – 2 oboes, 2 cor anglais, 2 horns and 2 bassoons. The Lonarc Oboe Trio plan to publish their editions of these works through Lonarc Oboe Trio Publishing in the near future along with Wenth's works currently held in the Imperial Library in Vienna. Composed for the Imperial Harmonie when Wenth was their Kapellmeister: Six Quintets for Oboe and String Quartet, a Quartetto Concertante for Oboe, Oboe Grande (in G), Cor Anglais and Bassoon and numerous arrangements of works by Mozart and other contemporary composers for Wind Harmonie. Wenth also wrote 12 String Quartets.

As a cor anglais player Wenth's influence on promoting his instrument cannot be underestimated. The writing in his oboe trios for the instrument comprises most probably the first major solo music for the cor anglais and leads directly to the virtuosic writing of 19th century composers such as Donizetti, Liszt, Pasculi, Verdi and Berlioz.

The influence of the bagpipe can also be heard in his trios - when the 2nd oboe and cor anglais drone a sustained perfect 5th, or when he gives the oboes or cor anglais pibroch-style twiddles and acciacaturas.

It is my supposition that Wenth taught the Teimer brothers when he was working with their father in the Schwarzenberg Harmonie and possibly composed some of the so far unpublished oboe trios in the Český Krumlov archive as educational pieces.

The **Lonarc Oboe Trio** are aiming to record all of the original 18th century Viennese-Bohemian Oboe Trios by Wenth, Triebensee, Wranitsky, Krommer, Poessinger, Beethoven and Hochmayer with reference to these urtext scores found in the Český Krumlov archives.

**Judy Proctor** ©Lonarc Oboe Trio 2018

1. Also known by his original Czech name of Jan Went.

2. Carl Ferdinand Pohl's generally reliable history of Vienna's Tonkünstler-Societät (Witwen- und Waisen-Versorgungs-Verein der Tonkünstler in Wien) indicated that one of the Society's benefit concerts, on December 23, 1793, included a Trio for two oboes and English horn, composed by oboist Johann Nepomuk Went (1745-1801) and performed by the brothers Johann, Franz, and Philipp Teimer, the last of whom had joined the Society the previous February 15.