

## **Mozart, Fragment of an Allegro in B flat for Clarinet Quintet Fr 1789d**

### **Three Completions**

#### **Editorial Introduction**

*Brief description:* The fragment consists of 93 bars, the entire exposition and the first 3 bars of the development section. The fragment breaks off at the end of the second leaf of the autograph manuscript in the middle of a striking chord of D flat major. The confidence of Mozart's hand, and the completeness of the fragment to this point, suggest that the piece continued onto a third leaf which subsequently became detached from the source and is now lost.

*Source:* Autograph manuscript written on two leaves of *Querformat* paper (Tyson paper type 100) ruled with 12 staves. The source is housed in the Music Department of the Bibliothèque nationale de France. Call sign: Ms. 262.

*Date:* The paper type of the manuscript shows that the fragment cannot date from before the end of 1789. It therefore seems unlikely that this is a dry run for the Clarinet Quintet in A K. 581 (September 1789), but was presumably conceived as a contrasting companion piece to the earlier work.

*Style of the fragment:* Unlike the Quintet in A K. 581, this fragment does not treat the clarinet as a concertante soloist. Rather, it is a fifth instrument whose range and blend with the stringed instruments means that it can take on a wide variety of functions, from the bearer of the principal melodic line to an accompanying role in the same (and slightly lower) register as the viola. The sudden progression to D flat at the start of the development section is of a piece with Mozart's strategy in other sonata form movements in B flat from that time of his life: see the first movements of the Piano Sonata K. 570 and the String Quartet K. 589.