

## »bass clarinet essentials«

Matthias Höfer, bass clarinet, and Manami Sano, piano

**Ever since Wagner, Meyerbeer, and Verdi, the bass clarinet has had a firm place in the romantic (opera) orchestra. The instrument's solo career began in 1955 with the Czech clarinetist Josef Horák.**

Even so, strong pieces exist from the time before 1955, which are presented on this CD: Schoeck's Sonata, op. 41, Hindemith's Sonata for Bassoon, and Adolf Busch's Suite. These compositions were written between 1927 and 1939.

Their creators were all associated with the Winterthur, Switzerland music patron Werner Reinhart (1884-1951), who was himself a gifted amateur clarinetist. Werner Reinhart's doors were always open and his guest book reads like a who's who of the composer scene: Stravinsky, those named above, Schoenberg, Webern, and Krenek -- he was in close contact with all of them, organized performances, commissioned compositions, and provided assistance in other ways.

Krenek dedicated several pieces to Reinhart and sent him the Prelude from exile for his 60th birthday. The pieces by Bozza and Krenek (using his pseudonym Thornton Winsloe) from 1939 were shaped by the circumstances which they were composed.

Josef Horák may have managed to arouse Paul Hindemith's interest in the bass clarinet as a solo instrument in 1960, but he also inspired many of his fellow Czechs to write pieces for him, such as the Suite by Alois Hába. Mower's Sonatina concludes this recording: jazz-like music composed for classically trained musicians.

### About the artists

**Matthias Höfer** is solo bass clarinetist of the Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester and a member of the Bayreuth Festival Orchestra. He has a passion for exploring literature for bass clarinet and basset horn and plays both instruments as a soloist with orchestras including the Schweriner Staatskapelle, the Hofer Sinfoniker, and the Frankfurter Solisten. As a chamber musician, he has also made recordings of the fruits of his studies: In addition to »bass clarinet essentials«, he has released albums with Trio Pleyel and the ensemble Clarimonia: »2 Clarinets & Bassoon« (brhCD1305), Adalbert Nudera Bassetthorn-Trios (CCD 810) and »Mozart etcetera« (brhCD1501).

After taking his first steps on the clarinet, his professional training took him from his Westphalian homeland to the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen, the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam, the Musikhochschule Hannover, and to Basel. Meanwhile, he is also an instructor at institutions including the Musikhochschule in Mainz and the Hochschule für Musik Saar.

Matthias Höfer's website: [www.hoefer-bassklarinet.de](http://www.hoefer-bassklarinet.de)

**Manami Sano** is a sought-after piano accompanist. After graduating in 1987, the Japanese pianist moved from Tokyo to Germany for further studies at the Folkwang Hochschule in Essen. Simultaneously she received a lectureship as a piano accompanist, which was followed by further positions at the Robert-Schumann-Hochschule Düsseldorf, the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, and the Musikhochschule Detmold. The focus of her work is on chamber music. In 1994 Manami Sano was awarded the Aalto Prize of the City of Essen for exceptional chamber music achievements together with tenor Torsten Kerl. The CD »CaraClarina« (brhCD1401) with clarinetist Caroline Hartig was released by bremen radiohall records in 2014.

**The CD »bass clarinet essentials« is available on eClassical.com in high resolution (24 bit / 96 kHz).**



## Tracklisting

<p><b>Othmar Schoeck (1886–1957):</b> Sonate für Bassklarinette und Klavier op. 41</p> <p>1 I. Gemessen 2 II. Bewegt 3 III. Bewegt</p> <p><b>Paul Hindemith (1895–1963):</b> Sonate (1938) für Fagott und Piano (Version for bass clarinet and piano)</p> <p>4 I. Leicht bewegt 5 II. Langsam – Marsch – Pastorale</p> <p><b>Adolf Busch (1891–1952):</b> Suite d-Moll für Bassklarinette solo op. 37a (1926)</p> <p>6 I. Andante tranquillo 7 II. Adagio 8 III. Scherzo 9 IV. Vivace</p> <p><b>Eugène Bozza (1905–1991):</b> 10 Ballade (1939) for bass clarinet and piano</p>	<p><b>Ernst Krenek (1900–1991):</b> 11 Prelude (Allegro ma non troppo, vigoroso)</p> <p><b>Thornton Winsloe = Ernst Krenek:</b> Sonatine for bass clarinet with piano accompaniment</p> <p>12 I. Allegretto moderato 13 II. Andantino 14 III. Allegro</p> <p><b>Alois Hába (1893–1973):</b> Suite für Bassklarinette und Klavier op. 100</p> <p>15 I. Allegretto animato 16 II. Allegro agitato 17 III. Andante cantabile 18 IV. Allegro animato</p> <p><b>Mike Mower (*1958):</b> 19 Sonatina for Bassoon &amp; Piano (2004)</p> <p>20 <b>Josef Horák (1931–2005)</b> Interview (1994)</p>
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## Summary

CD title:	bass clarinet essentials
Artists:	Matthias Höfer & Manami Sano
Order number:	brhCD1702
EAN:	1925628541126
Release date:	November 20, 2018
Download stores:	eClassical.com, iTunes and Amazon
CD distribution:	bremen radio hall records, LC 84828
Medium:	CD with 20 tracks, total time 72:35
Price:	17.99 EUR plus postage

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