

05. Lützow's wilde Jagd, Op. 42, No. 2

Carl Maria von Weber

(1786-1826)

arr. Friedrich Gumpert & William Melton

Weber, Carl Maria Friedrich Ernst von

(born 18 December 1786 in Eutin/Oldenburg; died 5 June 1826 in London)

Weber's father Franz Anton, a former military officer, was a town musician in Eutin at the time of his son's birth. A musical career seemed preordained—Carl Maria's mother was a dramatic singer and his first cousin was Constanze Mozart (née Weber). His father soon joined a travelling theatre troupe as musical director, and Carl Maria was raised with an intimate knowledge of the technical possibilities of the stage. The young man also managed to collect a musical education: in Salzburg he studied counterpoint with Michael Haydn, in Munich voice with Giovanni Valesi and composition with Johann Kalcher, and he would finally complete his studies with the Abbé Vogler in Vienna. Weber refined his abilities as a pianist and held a succession of *Kapellmeister* posts in Breslau, Prague and Dresden.

Parallel to his conducting career Weber composed a succession of operas beginning with *Das Waldmädchen* (1800) that culminated on 18 June 1821, when *Der Freischütz* was premiered at the new *Schauspielhaus* in Berlin. It was a colossal success: the potent mixture of romanticism and folk elements quickly became a part of the national consciousness and effectively ushered in the era of German musical Romanticism. Weber celebrated another triumph with *Euryanthe* (Vienna, 1823) before his tuberculosis became apparent. He died in London at the age of 39, worn by the exertion of finishing his last opera, *Oberon*, before its Covent Garden debut.

Composed on 13 September 1814, *Lützow's wilde Jagd* was first published by Schlesinger of Berlin as the second of six male choruses in *Leyer und Schwert*, Op. 42 with texts by Theodore Körner. Weber wrote of 'the furor' that performances of *Lützow* were causing in Prague in early 1815: 'encores were demanded, something that is unheard of in concerts here'. In addition to reissues of the original edition for male chorus, arrangements appeared for mixed chorus, solo voice and piano, piano solo (including a version by

Franz Liszt), two pianos, guitar, zither, wind Harmonie, military band and full orchestra. Leipzig Gewandhaus solo hornist Friedrich Gumpert (1841–1906) published his horn quartet transcription of *Lützow* as No. 6 of his *Ausgewählte Horn-Quartette*, Vol. 2 (Leipzig: Carl Merseburger, 1877).

Text by William Melton