

Symphony in D KV202

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(1756-1791)

Molto allegro

Andantino con moto

Menuetto - Trio

Presto

Mozart scholars like to divide his life into periods, although his progress as a composer was pretty seamless throughout (not counting his financial ups and downs). But there were transitional periods and this symphony belongs to one of them. It was written in 1774, three years after Mozart had returned, with his father Leopold, from his triumphant tour of Italy. Back in Salzburg he was under the less enthusiastic patronage of his new employer, Archbishop Colloredo, and the commissions he received were run-of-the-mill and not much to the taste of a rather stopy teenager, whose father had an eye on a court appointment in Vienna for his son.

Nevertheless, Wolfgang's output during these years was unstemmed, and the Symphony in D is a very perky example. It was scored for two oboes, bassoon, two horns, two trumpets, timpani and strings, but tonight's version is one for strings alone, which somewhat softens the rather martial sound of the original, although there is a delicate minuet which the strings always had to themselves.