

PIANO CONCERTO NO.21 IN C MAJOR K467

- W.A. MOZART -

The autograph manuscript of the Concerto in C major is dated 'Febraio 1785' and entered in his catalogue of works on the 9th of March. During this period, as well as working on the D minor Piano Concerto (no.20), he was teaching extensively and rehearsing the string quartets dedicated to Haydn with an ensemble including his father and Joseph Haydn himself.

The first performance was on Thursday, 10th March 1785 in a concert at the National Court Theatre, and was advertised on handbills as including the use of 'an especially large Forte piano pedale' to be used by Mozart for improvising. This was a custom-built device intended for the Viennese concerts, a second, legless fortepiano lying on the floor beneath the main instrument which could be played by the feet – much as the modern organ features a pedal-board.

The work was well received, Leopold Mozart records that his son received 559 gulden for the work, and it has remained popular. It was featured in the soundtrack for the movie *Elvira Madigan*, which is often seen to have trivialized the work, though as the film fades from the modern consciousness it regains its rightful place as a masterpiece. Like many of the Piano concerti, no cadenzas by Mozart have survived to the modern day.

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