

*Sextet Op 37*  
*for clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello & piano*

Ernst von Dohnányi (1877-1960)

*Allegro appassionato*  
*Intermezzo: Adagio*  
*Allegro con sentimento*  
*Finale: Allegro vivace giacoso*

Although Dohnányi chose to complete his musical education in his native Hungary, setting a precedent for his younger friend and classmate Bartók, Dohnányi's compositions were influenced much less than Bartók's by either folk-song or contemporary musical trends. Instead, his work follows the Romantic tradition of Schumann, Brahms and Liszt. However, as director of the Budapest Philharmonic and subsequently head of piano and composition at the Budapest Academy of Music Dohnányi did much to promote both Bartók and Kodály. He also taught some of the composers who emigrated to the United States between the wars and who found work writing for Hollywood often in the style of their mentor. His secure musical reputation enabled him to weather many of Hungary's tumultuous political changes, but, following a whispering campaign against him by the post-war communist government, he took up a tenured post at Florida State University in 1949.

He was a precocious composer - his often-played Opus 1 Piano Quintet was written in 1894 at the age of 17, was championed by Brahms himself and immediately established his reputation. The present sextet was written in 1935. Dohnányi was also a virtuoso pianist, touring extensively in Europe and the United States. His pupils included Géza Anda, Annie Fischer and Sir Georg Solti. Dohnányi's son Hans was a leader of the anti-Nazi resistance in Germany with Dietrich Bonhoeffer and was executed for his role in the plot to assassinate Hitler. Hans's son is the distinguished conductor Christoph von Dohnányi.