CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

between

George Thomson and Johann Nepomuk Hummel

Thomson's collected correspondence, along with the manuscripts he received from his composers, is preserved in The British Library (*GB-Lbl*). His correspondence with Hummel is to be found in Add MSS 32188, 35265, 35268, 35269 and 35270.

4 April 1826 Copy of a letter from Thomson to Mr Gow, dated 4 April 1826 (Add MS 35268, fol. 161^{v})

4 April 1826

Mr Gow
Music Seller
London

Wrote for his permission to publish in my Collection the Melody pub.^{d} by Mr Gow along with the words "My heart is sair for Somebody", in which case I offered him the Melody & the Symph.^{s} & Accompan.^{t} prepared for my Work of "Wha will be king but Charlie", he, in case of using the Symph.^{s} & Accomp.^{t}, mentioning, that the Song is pub.^{d} by my permission. – The following postscript was added.

It is my purpose, in order to make room for a number of new Scottish Songs in my 5th volume folio, to take out of the volume the opera of Burns's Jolly Beggars, as set by Bishop, and to publish it as a separate work at 6 – 7 Sh.^{s}. The songs and chorusses (*sic*) occupy about 30 pages of music, besides the letter press. Were you inclined to purchase the copy-right of this very humorous & clever Opera, I would let you have it on liberal terms.

Comment:

Thomson explains his decision to publish his '25 Additional Airs' as Part 2 of his 5th folio volume of 1826 (SCOSA (5b)). Five of the airs were arranged by Hummel (**Hummel Edition Nos. 1 - 5**). The song for which Thomson is seeking Gow's permission is **'Somebody'** (**Hummel Edition No. 2**).

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11 April 1826 Copy of a letter from Thomson to Hummel, dated 3 April 1826 ('But not sent till the 11th waiting for a letter in answer to the above to Mr Gow') (Add MS 35268, fols. 161v-164r)

Edin. Trustees Office
April 3d 1826 (But not sent till the
11th waiting for a letter in answer to
the above to M.r Gow)

To J. N. Hummel
Maitre de Chapelle
De la Cour Grand Duc de Saxe Weimar
Weimar

Dear Sir

I beg leave to inform you that for many years I have employed my leisure in collecting & publishing the favourite Melodies of Scotland, for which our great Poets Burns, Scott, Byron, Campbell, &c have written verses: and in order that nothing might be wanting to give interest to these Melodies, I got the illustrious Haydn, &c to compose Ritornelles or Symphonies & Accompaniments for the Piano Forte, Violin, Flute & Violoncello to many of the Melodies, which they have done with great felicity. The enjoyment which I have lately had in your graceful & most beautiful compositions & the great respect I have for your genius, make me anxious that my work should also be enriched by some specimens of your talents. In the hope of this, I take the liberty to inclose 5 of the Melodies:- for each of these I beg you will have the goodness to compose Ritornelles or Symph.s & Accompaniments for the Pianoforte & for the Violin, Flute & Violoncello – the Piano Forte to be of itself complete, because it is very often the only Accomp.t we can have. Yet we wish the Accompaniments for the Violino, Flauto, & Violoncello to be each in its turn a little obligato, as being thus more amusing than when merely ad libitum: these Accompaniments may be as fanciful as you think proper, but the ladies like the Pianoforte Accomp.t to their National Melodies to be rather in a simple Cantabile style.

The highest sum which Haydn & Beethoven demanded, & received, was 4 ducats for each Melody, and I flatter myself you will not be offended if I offer the same to you. At the foot of the next leaf you will find an order on Messrs J. N. & J. P. Gogel of Frankfort–Maine [*sic*] for 20 ducats – which order you will please to send to Frankfort accompanied by your own draft for that sum, & it will immediately be paid to you. When you have done the Rit.s & Accomp.ts be so obliging as to send them to me by post, & along with them a Receipt written, & signed by yourself in the form which you will find at the end of this letter, such a Receipt being necessary to prevent other persons from printing the music. I must beg too that you will not give away a copy, for fear of its being printed abroad before being printed here, in which case my copy right w.d be destroyed.

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Allow me to suggest that the two Ritornelles or Symphonies, the one at the beginning, & the other at the end of each Melody should not be shorter than 6 or 8 bars each if you please.

I would esteem it very kind if you will be so obliging as to do these little things with your very earliest convenience, & send them off to me: such bagatelles will not require much of your precious time. I shall write the first verse under each Melody to shew you its character, but you need not take the trouble of inserting any verse on the Manus.[t] which you send to me.

The other night I heard the charming boy, Aspull, play your most admirable Septetto in D minor, with the Accomp.[s] with which we were quite electrified. It is a glorious composition. We take great pleasure in playing your Trios in my own family; they are delightful. <u>One</u> is so difficult however as to be rather beyond our powers. I remember you well in Edinburgh when you was [*sic*] about Aspull's age, along with my good friend Mr Salomon, & of spending many pleasant hours in your company. I wish with all my heart you would return once more. This is now an elegant city, with many lovers of music, who would be happy to see & hear you play your delicious compositions. I wish you all good things & I have the honour to remain Yours truly

(signed) G Thomson

Form of the Receipt to be written and signed by Mr Hummel

I, J. N. Hummel, Composer of Music, residing at Weimar in [blank space] do hereby acknowledge that I have received from M.[r] George Thomson of the city of Edinburgh in Scotland Twenty Ducats for composing at his request Ritornelles or Symphonies & Accompaniments for the Pianoforte, & for the Violin, Flute, & Violoncello, to Five Scottish Airs, And I declare & certify that the aforesaid Ritornelles or Symphonies & Accompaniments so composed by me for the said M.[r] Thomson, are hereby conveyed to him, & to his heirs and assignees as his & their sole and absolute property in perpetuity without any reservation whatever. Given under my hand & seal at [blank space] the day of May One thousand eight hundred & twenty six.

The Melodies sent were the following viz.[t]

N.[o] 1 A young Lady in distress for her absent Lover, is intreated to many another, but remains faithful – Scott

Andante con moto ma con espressione [2-bar MS incipit of the Air with text underlay "Why weep you by the tide Lady"]

N.[o] 2 The affectionate maid lamenting her Lover's absence – Burns

Andante amoroso con moto [2-bar MS incipit of the Air with text underlay "My heart is sair I darena tell"]

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N.º 3 A Lover's admiration for his beautiful Mistress – Byron

Grazioso [1-bar MS incipit of the Air with text underlay "I saw thee weep"]

N.º 4 A Chief with his Mistress being closely pursued by Lord Ullin her father, embark in a ferry boat in a storm, and are drowned in his sight – Campbell

Andante con energia ed agitazione [1-bar MS incipit of the Air with text underlay "A Chieftain to the …"]

N.º 5 The happy Country maid

And.º quasi Allegretto [1-bar MS incipit of the Air with text underlay "At ev'n when on each heather bell"]

Comment: The 5 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 1 – 5**.

1 June 1826 Letter and receipt from Hummel to Thomson, dated 1 June 1826, (Add MS 35265, fols. 165-170)

Weimar, the 1st Juny [*sic*] 1826

To M.r Thomson,
at Edinburgh

Dear Sir,

I hope You will pardon me, that I did not answer you sooner, but I have made a little journey to Leipzic, Dresden & Berlin, from whence I did not return till the midle [*sic*] of May, where I found your honored [*sic*] letter.

I send You now the five scottish Airs which You desired to be accompained [*sic*] & furnished with Symphonies by me, and I hope You will be satisfyed [*sic*] with the labour and attention I have aplyed [*sic*] on them.

You will certainly remark that I have served myself of the Art only as ornament of Nature, that the aplication [*sic*] of the instruments is ad locum, without covering the principal partie, the Voice; and so I hope, it will answer to Your purpose.

I have only to remark [to] You in this Occasion, that the Price of 4 Ducats is very low for the present circumstances, the compositions of distinguished Authors being payd [*sic*] much higher now than before in our Country; and so much more, as You desired the Airs to be accompained [*sic*] also by a flute, which did not M.r Haydn, who only accompained [*sic*] them with Violin & Violoncello.

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For these reasons I hope, You will do me justice and raise the Honorar something more, when You'll favor [*sic*] me in future with other airs.

It is about 35 years ago since I was in Scottland [*sic*] & England, therefore I hope you will pardon my bad & incorrect english writing. I hope however you will understand me sufficiently.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

You [*sic*] most obedient Servant,

J. N. Hummel

fol. 167^{r}:

I, J. N. Hummel, Composer of Music, residing at Weimar in Saxony, do hereby acknowledge that I have received from M.^{r} George Thomson of the city of Edinburgh in Scotland Twenty Ducats for composing at his request Ritornelles or Symphonies & Accompaniments for the Pianoforte, – and for the Violin, Flute & Violoncello, to five Scottish Airs.And I declare & certify that the aforesaid Ritornelles or Symphonies & Accompaniments so composed by me for the said M.^{r} Thomson, are hereby conveyed to him & to his heirs & assignees, as his & their sole and absolute property in perpetuity, without any reservation whatever.

Given under my hand & seal at Weimar, the first day of Juny [*sic*], one thousand eight hundred and twenty six.

John Nep. Hummel
Chapel Master to His Royal
Highness the Great Duke of
Weimar, member of the Academical
Society "les Enfans d'Apollon["] at Paris.

fol. 169^{v}:

To / M.^{r} George Thomson, / Trustee's Office / at / Edinburgh / in Scottland

Thomson notes:

1 June 1826 / J. N. Hummel / Weimar / Of his having sent the Symph.^{s} and Acomp.^{s} which he has composed for me to five Sottish Airs.

fol. 170^{v}:

Thomson notes:

Receipt / J. N. Hummel / of Weimar / for 20 Ducats for composing Symphonies & Accompaniments to five of my Scottish Airs / And / Declaration of their being my sole and absolute property in perpetuity. / 1 June 1826.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Comment:

The 5 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 1 - 5**.

6 September 1829 Letter from Hummel to Thomson, dated 6 September 1829, (Add MS 35265, fols. 189-190)

M.r G. Thomson, Edinburgh

Weimar, the 6th of Septemb. 1829

Dear Sir,

I mention to You that the twelve Scotch Songs are finished and ready. I pray You to let me know in what way I can send them to You: if by the Dilligence, (post carriage directly to Co.): or if I schall [*sic*] address them to any of Your Commissioners on the Continent, that You may receive them promptly.

You have also addressed me for the 60 Ducats to Mess.rs Coutts & C.o in London; however, as there is no Concurrency of payments in Ducats bitween [*sic*] England and the Continent, You would oblige me if You would send me an Assignation ~~for~~ upon Mess.rs Coutts for the somme [*sic*] of 29 P.ds Sterl. instead of 60 Duc.s not being english money; for that somme [*sic*] our bankers shall be aible [*sic*] to pay me, conforming the present Cours [*sic*] of money, the 60 Duc.

Or if You should not like this, be so kind to write to Mess.rs Coutts & C.o that he sends to me an Assignation for 60 Duc. ~~addressed and payable~~ to be payed [*sic*] by one of our bankers at Weimar. I hope You will not be less content with these 12 Songs than with the former. Expecting Your kind notice in a short time, I have the honor [*sic*] to be

Your most obedient Serv.t

Hummel

fol. 190v:

To / M.r G. Thomson / Trustee's Office / Edinburgh

Thomson notes:

6 Sept 1829 / Hummel / Weimar / informing me that he has composed Symph.s & Accompan.ts to the 12 Scottish Melodies which I last sent him.

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Comment:

The 12 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 6 – 17**.

Manuscript copy of the 12 Airs (with text underlay) that Thomson sent Hummel has survived (Ms Add 32188 fols. 3-5). His acompanying letter has not survived.

Thomson's response to Hummel's remark in his letter of 1 June 1826 "that the Price of 4 Ducats is very low" was to increase his commission fee from 4 Ducats to 5 Ducats per arrangement.

15 October 1829 Receipt from Hummel to Thomson, dated 15 October 1829, (Add MS 35265, fols. 197-198)

Weimar the 15 Octob. 1829

Dear Sir

Herewith I send You the 12 Scotch Melodies and I hope you will be pleased with my labour.

Cadences in the vocal party I did not add, not finding them fit on the tune where you wished to have them placed, nor à propos. Some of the melodies being very singulary [*sic*] I have taken much care to soften them by a sweet and natural corring [*sic*] harmony. I notice to You also that in the month of March next year I schall [*sic*] come [to] England, and if convenable offers are made to me by the musical Amateur of Edinburgh, I schall [*sic*] be very glad to see again Scotland, which pleased me very much when I was there at the age of 11 years. I have the honor [*sic*] to remain

Your most humble & obedient Serv^{t}

J. N. Hummel

P.S.

As I could not find the formular of the Declaration I sent You some years ago already I wrote You one in the same kind but in french linguage [*sic*]; whoever dont fear, I never abuse.

fol. 197^{v}:

M.^{r} G. Thomson / Trustee's Office / Edinburgh

Thomson notes:

15 Oct 1829 / J. N. Hummel / Weimar / declaring that he has composed for me as my sole property Symphonies & Acompan.^{s} for the Piano, Flute, Violin and Violoncello, to Twelve Scottish Airs.

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fol. 198^{r}:

Certificat

Je déclare avoir fait les accompagnements de Piano, flute et Violon et Violoncelle, avec les Symphonies a 12 Chansons ecossois pour M.^{r} G. Thompson [*sic*], à Edinburgh, comme veritable Propriétaire de ladite composition. Signé par moi même, le 15 Octbre 1829.

Jean Nep Hummel
Maître de Chapelle de la Cour
Chévalier de l'ordre roy. de France
de la légion d'honneur

Comment:

The 12 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 6 - 17**.

14 December 1829 Copy of a letter from Thomson to Hummel, dated 14 December 1829, (Add MS 35269, fols. 7^{v}–9^{r})

Edinburgh Trustees' Office
14 Dec.^{r} 1829

A Monsieur
Jean Nep. Hummel
Maitre de Chapelle
De la Cour de
Weimar
(en Saxe)

My dear Sir

I have had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 15th ult.^{o} The Symphonies & Accompaniments which you have composed for the Scottish Airs, like every thing you do, are full of talent. Those which I most admire are No.^{s} 1 – 3 – 4 – 6 – 8 – 10 – & 12. The others I am sorry to say are not at all suited to that class of persons here who sing and play those little National Melodies, for they will not look at a Piano Forte Accompaniment to those Melodies, if it is learned or recherché, or if it is not perfectly easy for the fingers; and therefore it would not be advisable for me to offer any such to the Public.

I am sensible however that you have bestowed the greatest attention on every one of the 12, and I am far from finding any fault with you. You did not know how singularly how peculiarly simple our tastes are in whatever relates to our native Melodies, and that the fingers of the Piano Forte Accompanist must get

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as little to do as possible along with those Melodies. Perhaps I may be taking too great a liberty with you, if I ask you whether you will condescend to retouch some of the Symphonies & Accompaniments. If you dislike it, you need only to say the word, and I never will presume to speak of it again. I must in that case be contented with the more simple Accompaniments of other masters aleady in my possession. But if your good nature may induce you to descend to please our simple tastes, I shall tell you what I wish, as to the following Airs.

No 6 Despondency

For this one I would beg new Symphonies in an arioso style, and more like the Air itself: indeed we like the Symphony to begin with the air, or something like it. The Pianoforte accompan.^{t} I will not ask you to simplify it: it is very pretty.

No 8 Highland Pibroch

For this, which you have done in a most excellent style, I only wish you to simplify a few bars of the Piano Forte: I allude to the latter part of the first Symphony, to the 4 bars of Chorus, and to the last Symphony, those bars being very full of notes, are not easily played with correctness. By thinning them as your own good taste will suggest, you would render the Melody more generally acceptable. The Words are here the great object it is a simple Aria parlante.

No 11 Evening

Here the Symphonies are altogether foreign to the Air, and do not in the least partake of its simple character. I would beg new ones Cantabile, in the style of the melody. The Acompan.^{t} will do quite well.

No 9 The maid deserted

This you have done in a masterly manner, but in a style more learned and recherché than is acceptable to our Singers of National Airs. It would require to be much simplified from beginning to end. But if you dislike doing this, I do not at all mean to press it; et il faut donc qu'elle dorme avec les autres. There are some lovely touches in it, & I cannot help regretting that you made it elaborate & difficult.

I know my good Sir that your time is precious. So if you are so kind as to make the requisite alterations on the above Airs, and whether you touch No 9 or not, I will if you please pay four more ducats or £2 on your account to any person in London or Hamburg whom you may mention to me.

The Flute, Violin & Violoncello parts are as easy as we could wish. It is the Piano Forte alone about which it is necessary to be particular: for that is the only Accompaniment we have 999 out of 1000.

The sooner you send me the alterations, it will be the more obliging, as I am anxious to complete my volume without delay.

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I have the honor [*sic*] to be D.r Sir

Yours truly

(signed) G Thomson

Ps.

I am very glad you have determined to visit London and hope you find it for your interest to extend your visit to Edinburgh, where we will be happy to see you. The Amateurs here are far from being so numerous or so enthusiastic as in your wonderful country: they never make proposals to any Professor.

Comment:

The revisions requested are for 4 of the 12 songs (**Hummel Edition Nos. 11a, 13a, 16a & 14a** respectively).

2 February 1830 Letter from Hummel to Thomson, dated 2 February 1830, (Add MS 35265, fols. 214-215)

Weimar the 2d Feb. 1830

Dear M.r Thompson [*sic*],

I was indeed surprised to hear that Your Public should find the Symphonies & Accompaniments too difficult, as in our Country they would find them very easy. However to content Your Desire, I send You hereby the Changement of the Symphonies p.p.. as You wished them: correspondable to the Songs, more melodious and easyer [*sic*]. The Highland Pibroch I have simplified Synfonies [*sic*] and Accomp.ts to the Air.

The maid deserted I could not change much, the whole being too much favorit [*sic*] to me; however I simplified the Sinfonies. What belongs to the Evening You are in right; the Sinfonies were quite foreign to the Air; therefore I changed them intirely [*sic*].

As I know now, how You like those things for Your purpose, I shall pay attention to it in future.

I should have sent You these Changements sooner but I have been seak [*sic*] for 3 weacks [*sic*] and could not do any thing.

Be so kind to advertise Mess.rs Coutts & C.o that he pay's [*sic*] me the two P.ds when I ask for them in London; I supose [*sic*] to arrive there the beginning of April.

I am Sir your most obed.t Serv.t

Hummel

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fol. 214^{v}:

To / M.^{r} G.^{o} Thomson, / Trustee's Office / Edinburgh / in Scotland

fol. 215^{v}:

Thomson notes:

2.^{d} Febr.^{y} 1830 / J. N. Hummel / Weimar / with new Symphonies to 4 of the 12 Scottish Airs, in a simplified form. / Wrote in reply 17 Feb.1830

Comment:

The revisions to the 4 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 11b, 13b, 14b & 16b**)

17 February 1830 Copy of a letter from Thomson to Hummel, dated 17 February 1830, (Add MS 35269, fol. 10^{v})

Edin 17 Febr 1830

J. N. Hummel
Chapel master to
The Grand Duke of Saxe Weimar
Weimar
(en Saxe)

Dear Sir

I have been favoured with yours of the 2^{d} ins.^{t} with Symph.^{s} & Accompan.^{s} to 4 of the Scottish Airs in a more simple & easy style. These are quite what I wish'd & very beautiful: Many thanks to you my good Sir. The £2 shall be waiting for you on your arrival in London. Please to call on my friend Mr Preston 71 Dean Street Soho, who will instantly pay you. But I will make it £3, if you will have the goodness to simplify either N.^{o} 2, Admiration, or N.^{o} 5, Constancy & Ardour; the latter more particularly as it is a great favourite of mine. I have it already by Kozeluch, but I sent it to you in the hope of a superior arrangement. Yours however, (I speak of the Piano Forte only) is more elaborate & diffcult than his, and requires too much attention to the fingering from the player, who is generally also the Singer.

You know well how to make it more simple & easy, and at the same time to give it that charm of your genius & fine taste. The Symph.^{s} also sh.^{d} be more melodious & nearer to the style of the Air: they appear to us more like an introduction to a German Scena than to a simple Scotch Melody.

I remain &c.

[not signed]

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Comment:

The revisions requested are for **Hummel Edition Nos 7 & 10**. Hummel ignored Thomson's request and Thomson chose not to publish Hummel's arrangements.

29 October 1831 Letter from Thomson to Hummel, dated 29 October 1831, (Add MS 32188, fols. 1-2)

Edinburgh, 81 George Street
29 October 1831

M.r J.N. Hummel
Weimar

Dear Sir,

I beg leave to send you 3 other Scottish Airs for the voice, and to intreat that you will have the goodness to compose for them suitable Ritornelles & Accompaniments for the Piano Forte, and for the Violin, Flute, & Violonco, – making the Piano Forte part simple and quite easy for the player, if you please: Our Singers generally accompany their own voices; they are often poor players; and of course are much puzzled if they have many notes to occupy their fingers, while the song requires so much of their attention. Some of those which you have obligingly done for me, tho' always masterly, are rather too difficult in the Piano Forte part, & the Ritornelles not in your happy style: two particularly, N.o 2 Admiration, True hearted, &c. and N.o 5 Constancy & Ardour, O were I on Parnassus. But I do not at all complain, well knowing that a Composer cannot always be equally successful. Your Accompan.ts in general I admire very much: and the manner in which you employ the Violin Flute and Violonc.o is to me & to the few friends who occasionally play them with me, truly delightful.

Sorry am I however to say that there are not in this large city above 3 or 4 families, who ever think of, know, or care for any thing but the Piano Forte part of my Songs!

You will receive on demand from M.r Jules Elkan of your city Fifteen ducats for the 3 Airs, as usual. If you or if Mr. Elkan is acquainted with any of the gentlemen of the British Embassy at your Court, you might thus get your Manuscripts sent free to me I believe, address'd to me, and in that case put under cover to my friend Tho.s Archer Esq. of the Treasury London: but if not, send the M.S.S. address'd to myself ~~only~~ at Edinburgh, by any conveyance that you think best.

My agent in London wrote me that you had applied to him for a copy of my

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Songs; and by the very next post I ordered that you should have them free of price.

I lately got three charming Sonatas of yours publish'd by Boosey for the Piano Forte, with a Violin Accompan[t], which my daughter and I often play together with great pleasure. I hope you will favour us with some more of the same exquisite Compositions.

Paganini is here at present astonishing & delighting all of us with his matchless magical performances. Farewell dear Sir

Your friend & faithful humble serv.[t]

G. Thomson

fol.1[v]:

Single sheet / A Monsieur / M.[r] J.N. Hummel / Maitre de chapelle de la cour de / Weimar / en Saxe

+ 3 postal stamps indicating the date of mailing from Edinburgh, 'Edin / Oct 29 / 1831' + red wax seal

fol. 2[r]-2[v]:

Thomson's music manuscript of the 3 Airs (with text underlay) that he enclosed with the letter – ['The sweets of Spring viewed by a happy Lover'; 'The beauties of Nature viewed with indifference by a sorrowing Lover'; 'A young Lady laments the parting from her Lover'] along with the following instruction:-

'If M.[r] Hummel finds that any notes in any of the above 3 Airs could be altered, with advantage either to the Air or to the Harmony, M.[r] T will be obliged by M.[r] H making whatever change his fine taste may dictate; provided the character of the Air is preserved.'

2 November 1831 Receipt from Hummel to George Arbuthnot, dated 2 November 1831, (Add MS 35265, fol. 238)

Pr Stück 15 Kaiserl Ducaten / Schreibe Fünfzehn Stück Kaiserl Ducaten _____ von dem Herren Julius Elkan hier _____ für Rechnung des Herren Thomson in Edinburg auf Vorordnung an Herren Coutts & C.[o] London erhalten zu haben, bescheinige hiermit doppelt, jedoch nur einfach geltend. / Weimar den 2 November 1831 / J. N. Hummel / (countersigned) Geo[e] Aruthnot Esq

15 Ducats £7. 6/ - – St.[g]

[signed] Geo Arbuthnot Esq

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19 December 1831 Letter from George Arbuthnot to Thomson, dated 19 December 1831, (Add MS 35265, fol. 239)

London, Upper Wimpole Sreet.
December 19th 1831

My dear Sir

I have now the pleasure to send you Mr J N Hummell's [*sic*] Receipt for 15 Imperial Ducats, which I have paid thro' Messrs Coutts & C.º in £7. 6/ –; and you can remit me that sum at your perfect convenience.

Believe me my dear Sir / Most truly yours / George Arbuthnot

My nephew Captain George joins me in kind remembrance to you and Mr Stuart: he is going off to Paris tomorrow to pass a day or two with his mother & sisters before he sails for Madras, which he hopes to do the 1st of February.

fol. 239v:

To / George Thomson, Esq / Trustees Office / Edinburgh

Thomson notes:

Dec 1831 / From my friend Mr G Arbuthnot / inclosing / Receipt from Hummel for 15 Ducats for composing Sym.s and Accompan.ts to 3 Scottish Airs.

Comment:

The 3 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 18 – 20**.

4 April 1832 Autograph music MS from Hummel to Thomson containing 'Three Scotch Songs accompained [*sic*] by J. N. Hummel' ["No. 1 The sweets of Spring viewed by a happy Lover"; No. 2 The beauties of Nature viewed with indifference by a sorrowing Lover"; "No. 3 A young Lady laments the parting from her Lover"], with a note, dated 4 April 1832, (Add MS 35270, fols. 55-56)

Dear Mr Thomson! A great deal of business and an Indisposition was the reason you did not receive these Songs a long time ago allready [*sic*].

Occasion to send them to you by a privat [*sic*] way being very seldom, I thought it the best to send them by the post in the form of a letter as the quickest and shortest way. I hope you will be content with my Accompaniments and Simphonies, being done quit [*sic*] as you desired it. In

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N.^{o} 3, in the 6th bar of the Voice I aggiunged [added] a flat by A, which you may put out again, if it don't please you; but I found it so more adapted to the word "Death". Weimar the 4th of April 1832.

Your truly friend

J.N. Hummel

fol.56^{v}:

G^{e} Thomson Esq. / Trustees Office, / Edinburgh. / Scotland

Above the address Thomson notes:

Three Scottish Songs with Hummel's Symphonies & Accompan.^{s}

Comment:

The 3 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos. 18 – 20**.

The bifolium is folded as a letter. There are 4 postal stamps indicating the date of mailing from Weimar and arrival in Great Britain:-

1) 'Weimar / 12 Apr 1832
2) FPO / Ap 24 / 1832
3) M / Ap 24 / 1832
4) Apr / C 26 A / 1832

2 June 1832

Receipt from Hummel to Thomson, dated 2 June 1832, (Add MS 35265, fol. 240)

Declaration

I, J. N. Chévalier Hummel, Chapellmaster to His Roy. Highness the Grand Duc of Weimar, residing at Weimar in Saxony, do hereby acknowledge that I have received from M.^{r} George Thomson of the City of Edinburgh in Scotland Seventy five Ducats for composing at his request Ritornelles or Symphonies and Accompaniments for the Pianoforte, – and for the Violin, Flute, & Violoncello, to fifteen Scottish Melodies sent by him to me. And I certify and declare that the aforesaid Ritornelles or Symphonies & Accompaniments so composed by me for the said M.^{r} Thomson are hereby conveyed to him and to his heirs or assignees, as his and their sole and absolute property in perpetuity, without any sort of reservation whatever.

Given under my hand & seal at Weimar the first Day of June, One thousand eight hundred & thirty two. / J. N. Hummel

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CORRESPONDENCE

Comment:

The 15 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos 6 – 20**.

26 June 1832 Letter from Hummel to Thomson, dated 26 June 1832, (Add MS 35265, fols. 241-242)

Weimar the 26th of June 1832

Dear M.r Thomson,

I am very sorry that I forgot to send You immediately the Declaration together with the Songs; however the formular You have sent to me, will serve me for future occasions.

I don't retard [*sic*] to send you the Declaration at present as You wish it.

I am equally obliged to You for the Cadeau you made me with a Copy of the Scotsh [*sic*] Melodies of Your Publication. Having left England, I received Your favored [*sic*] lettre [*sic*] in Germany, wherefore I could not take them with me; but my brother in law M.r Köchel, who is with the german Opera at present in London, has been charged by me to received [*sic*] them for me from M.r Preston (in consequence of Your lettre [*sic*]) and to take them with him when he returns to Germany.

With my best wishes for Your health & prosperity believe me, Sir,

Your most humble Serv.t

Hummel

fol. 241v:

To / M.r George Thomson, Esq / 81 George Street / at / Edinburgh / in Scotland

Thomson notes:

Declaration by / J. N. Chevalier Hummel / of Weimar / that the Symph.s & Accomp.s to 15 Scottish Melodies composed by him for my Work are my sole & absolute property in perpetuity without any reservation whatever / 1832

fol. 242v:

Thomson notes:

1st June 1832 / J. N. Hummel / Weimar / that the Symphonies & Accomp.s composed for me to 15 Scottish Melodies are my sole property – for ever.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Comment:

The 15 songs are **Hummel Edition Nos 6 – 20**.

In total Thomson paid Hummel 99 Ducats for 'Symphonies & Accompaniments' to 20 Scottish Airs and revisions to 4 of them:–

20 Ducats for Nos. 1 – 5 (@ 4 Ducats each);

60 Ducats for Nos. 6 – 17 (@ 5 Ducats each);

15 Ducats for Nos.18 – 20 (@ 5 Ducats each);

4 Ducats for revisions to Nos. 11a, 13a, 14a & 16a (@ 1 Ducat each).

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