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## Heinrich Baermann: His Influence as Seen Through his Collaborations with Weber, Meyerbeer, and Mendelssohn

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It is well known that the 19th-century clarinetist Heinrich Baermann enjoyed fruitful professional relationships with several prominent composers, most notably Meyerbeer, Mendelssohn, and, of course, Weber. While research has already uncovered some of the ways in which these individuals inspired one another's music, there is other evidence that further illuminates the various types and levels of impact. Anecdotes recorded in the men's correspondence with one another provide interesting personal insight into the nature of these friendships and help explain how their rapport influenced the works they wrote for Baermann. Furthermore, the recollections of their interactions give a more personal feeling to the biographies of these men who have largely been studied in a purely academic manner. For example, the circumstances under which Mendelssohn composed the first of his Konzertstück for clarinet, bass horn, and piano involve an exchange of goods: his piece for a serving of dumplings. By examining the correspondence between these men, this presentation will shed light on the aforementioned situation as well as many charming and educational details about the relationships between Baermann and his composers. A better understanding of the personal and professional dynamics among these performers and composers will help present-day clarinetists appreciate Baermann's unique style and the legacy he left with regard to both repertory and performance practice.