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Carl Maria von Weber: "Romance: Trombone et Piano" An Analysis of Musical Narrative, Ambiguity, and Chromatic Voice Leading and Progressions

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Abstract

Romance for Trombone and Piano by Carl Maria von Weber is one of the most pivotal works of trombone repertoire today. This piece is an important piece to study for many trombonists today as it embodies many fundamental characteristics of German Romantic music, including: increased chromaticism, elaborate harmonic progressions, and increased emotional expression. In my presentation, I discuss how *Romance* for Trombone and Piano utilizes the concepts of ambiguity and chromatic voice leading progressions to create a sense of longing, desire and instability. Specifically, the listener can hear instances of "false tonics," chromatic mediants, omnibus progressions, and voice leading progressions. These moments work together to establish the musical narrative of a tragic romance which the listener can hear unfold through the piece.