



# Double Bass in the Spotlight

Joost Slootbeek



# Table of contents

- Introduction
- Through arrangements
- In ensembles
- On social media (and TV)
- Conclusion

*Domenico Dragonetti*



# Introduction

- Around early 1760s solo work started appearing
- Concertos by Sperger, Dittersdorf and Vanhal
- Famous bassists gaining popularity among composers
- Dragonetti and Bottesini were both famous but...

# Inspiration through arrangements

- Lack of classical double bass pieces
- Many bassists wrote their own arrangements
- Example: Eccles Sonata in G minor



*Serge Koussevitzky*

# Appreciation in ensembles

## Orchestra

- A vital part of the orchestra
- More depth in the strings
- Dragonetti rumored to have inspired Beethoven
- Numerous contemporary composers
- Search for less typical colours

## Chamber music

- Schubert's 'Trout' Quintet & Octet
- Over 4000 pieces with double bass
- Both modern & classical
- Onslow inspired by Dragonetti
- String Quintet no.20

# On social media (and TV)

- Of great importance to any artist
- [A few examples](#)
- One part playing, one part looks
- Though musicality does play a role
- Visibility to the general public

# Conclusion

- How to boost popularity?
- TV performances and festivals
- Ask your peers to listen!