

Frederic Chopin (1810–1849)

Theme by Rossini and Variations

Chopin's lively arrangement of Rossini's popular theme 'Non Piu Mesta' from "La Cenerentola".

Louis Lot **original flute no 435 made in 1859** for the French flautist New-ve-lears. It has **ring keys**, where the pads of your fingers need to work the mechanism of the key and cover the open hole, this can hinder the speed of response, as does the delicate behavior of the Dorus G sharp. Dorus redesigned the G sharp key with a delicate mechanism designed with Godfroy and Lot, which allowed the G sharp key to stay closed, but remain open when idle. Boehm's prototype flute was an open G sharp key that required the 4th finger to close the key when idle.

It has a **conical; narrow bore**, similar to an earlier 8-keyed or one-keyed baroque flute.

A quote *From The Musical World 1848* "The tone of this flute almost resembles a mellow soprano voice, so liquid and pleasant is it; the graduations from soft to loud, and the extremes of each, seem producible in a manner I never remarked in a flute before." In Chopin's arrangement of a popular theme by Rossini, the flute's natural vocal qualities are combined with virtuosic variations, which show off the Boehm flutes' athleticism.

Theobald Boehm (1794–1881) *Fantasia on a Theme from Schubert Op.21*

The ring keys were an essential invention. Previously levers opened one hole at a time, but Boehm's invention allowed multiple keys to be controlled simultaneously, thus increasing the holes from six to fourteen.

"At last, I obtained a tube with fourteen holes, which was very much superior in acoustical proportions to the common flute tube, as all notes from the fundamental C up to the highest B could be produced upon it, equal, free, certain, powerful, and in good tune..." *from Boehm's Essay on the Construction of Flutes.*

John Clinton, professor of flute at the Royal Academy of Music in London wrote in 1843, "one of the principal beauties of the Boehm flute is, that it can be played perfectly in every key, and that of course renders it infinitely superior to the old flute". Boehm's many compositions were explicitly written to challenge this ability to play chromatically and evenly with equal expression.