

ABSTRACT

CREATIVE PROJECT: Historical and Musical Analysis of Richard

Strauss' Suite in Bb, Op. 4

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This paper intends to examine the historical and musical elements of Richard Strauss' *Suite in Bb, Op. 4* for thirteen wind instruments. This work tends to be eclipsed by the earlier and more popular cornerstone of the wind ensemble literature, the *Serenade in Eb, Op. 7*. It is argued that both pieces were pivotal in establishing the career of a young Richard Strauss. The Serenade spawned the creation of the Suite, which in turn started both the conducting career of Strauss as well as his compositional career on a larger stage. Examined in this paper will be the historical significance of the Suite in Bb as well as its musical, structural, thematic, and motivic characteristics. Conducting considerations relating to the work's musical elements will also be explored.