

Unter Donner und Blitz (Thunder and Lightning) – Polka, Op. 324 (1868)
Johann Strauss, Jr. (1825 – 1899)

Johann Strauss, Jr., the most famous of the Viennese Strauss dynasty that covered the period 1804 – 1916, wrote many polkas, quadrilles, galops, and waltzes and also several operettas; it seemed that the Viennese craze for such works, which began with similar compositions by his father (Johann Sr.), was inexhaustible!

This brilliant polka was first performed at the “Hesperusball” in Vienna in February, 1868. The work’s original title was “Falling Stars”; some time after the work’s première, its title was changed to the one by which we know it today. It is certainly appropriate for this sparkling music, with its simulated lightning bolts and thunderclaps generated by a very active percussion section.

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