

DEREK BELL

THREE TRANSCENDENTAL
CONCERT STUDIES

III

Toccata burlesca

Oboe & Piano



AMORIS INTERNATIONAL

www.amoris.com

AI SI 026

Derek Bell

(1935-2002)

Derek Bell was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 1935. He studied composition, piano and oboe at the Royal College of Music (London) and was awarded the Manns Prize. Amongst the positions he held during his career were those of principal cor anglais with the City of Belfast Orchestra, principal harp and principal oboe (concurrently) with the BBC Northern Ireland Orchestra, and professor of harp at the Belfast Academy of Music.

In 1976 Derek Bell joined The Chieftains playing harp, tiompán (a small cimbalom-styled hammered dulcimer, which he introduced and named after the mediaeval Irish instrument), oboe and keyboards. He participated in well over 35 CDs with this legendary Irish ensemble.

His compositions include *Pastoral* Overture, Symphony ('The Tragic') in E flat, Symphony No. 2 in D ('The Violet Flame-Comte de St. Germain', performances of which have included the prestigious Edinburgh Festival 1991), piano works and chamber music. The scores of some of his research into Irish music were published. These include *Immortal Carolan Melodies for Irish Folk Instruments*. ♦

Derek Bell recorded *Toccata burlesca* (one of his *Three Transcendental Studies* ♦) on the album '*Derek Bell Plays With Himself*' ♦. This double tracking of various oboes with assorted accompaniments (he performed upon eight instruments) is one of his eight solo albums. Six, with harp, feature the compositions of Turlough O' Carolan (a.k.a. Terence Carolan or [Irish Gaelic] *Toirdhealbhach Ó Cearbhalláin*, 1670 - 1738). A further album features Derek Bell as pianist and many incorporate his beloved traditional Irish music.

This remarkably versatile musician also played bass oboe with The Amoris Consort.

George Derek Fleetwood Bell was awarded the MBE (Member of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire) in 2000 by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to Irish Music. He died just two years later in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

♦ Lyra Music Company, NY (1985)

♦ Amoris International (1997)

♦ Claddagh Records (1980)



THREE TRANSCENDENTAL CONCERT STUDIES

III *Toccata burlesca*

Oboe & Piano

A SI 026

In 1958, Dr. Boucher, Head of the Music Department of B.B.C. Northern Ireland, commissioned me to write three oboe pieces for a radio programme of new music by Ulster composers. The result was *Three Transcendental Concert Studies*, which are of equal virtuosity for both players. The *Ballade pastorale* and *Toccata burlesca* are for oboe and piano. *Légende* is for cor anglais and piano.

Ballade pastorale and *Légende* are both pure nature music. *Ballade pastorale* depicts deep lakes, rivers and birdsong in the woodlands. *Légende* portrays both the underwater life of the lakes and that of their banks where trees grow on the mountainsides.

The *Toccata burlesca* first occurred to me as I watched my Uncle, Robert Bell, leaving my house and walking down Cranmore Gardens in Belfast with such energy and unbelievably happy cheerfulness, yet he never ever touched a drop of the *poteen* ♦!

He was an erudite, humble, persuasive and quiet man and, rather paradoxically, a very remarkable leader. He founded several troops of Boy Scouts as well as cricket, tennis and badminton clubs. He also demonstrated and introduced the Royal Ulster (Police) Constabulary to the amazing Japanese defence art of Ju-Jitsu in the late 1920s!

Toccata burlesca is a portrait of all these more energetic sides of his nature, but the player and listeners may imagine that it is a late Saturday night and every oboe and every piano player have been out all over the town for quite a lot to drink! Eventually they all roll home, falling suddenly unconscious to the floor - dead drunk!

The work is dedicated to the memory of Robert B. Bell, as well as to the illustrious Bulgarian oboist Professor Petro Kristov Totev and the distinguished Pennsylvanian oboist Rheta Smith. They have both recorded this piece, as has the composer!

Derek Bell
2000

♦ Unlawfully distilled Irish whiskey

NB. The studies may be performed separately, in a group of two, or all three together.



Other words by Derek Bell published by **Amoris International** include
Nocturne on an Icelandic Melody (A SI 006)
Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Harp (Piano)

A

www.amoris.com

III

Derek Bell
(1935 -2002)

Toccata burlesca

Allegro

Oboe

Piano

Allegro

sffz f *sffz meno f*

5

5

sffz meno f

9

9

sffz mp f

13

13

mp *più f* *ff* *fff*

16

16

8va loco *Glissando* *tr* *subito p e crescendo molto* *p* *molto crescendo* *pp*

20

20

8va loco *ffz* *mf* *leggero con buon umore* *f* *subito p* *fff* *subito p*

24

24

dolce *Leg.*

❖ *il glissando sulle chiavi bianche*

27 *p crescendo*

27 *subito mp m.s.* *sfz*

31 *p dolce* *sfz*

31 *quasi spiccato* *p dolce* *senza pedale*

34 *più dolce* *p < sfz* *p*

34 *pp* *senza pedale* *fff*

37 *mp* *tr* *senza pedale*

37 *subito p* *senza pedale*

40

f *mf*

40

p

43

f

43

mp

47

p *f* *f*

51

p

51

sempre distinto e ritmico

subito ppp

Leg.

55

55

mf *subito pp*

59

59

mp

63

63

allargando *fff* *molto decrescendo* *ritenuto*

8vb *loco*

67 *Tempo di Valse* *(grazioso)* *mp dolce*

Tempo di Valse

67

p

69

69

71

71

p

(il basso sempre staccato)

73

73

75

un poco appassionato

mf

75

dolcissimo espressivo

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4. Measures 69-70 show the voice entering with a melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment begins with arpeggiated chords in the right hand and staccato eighth notes in the left hand. Measures 71-72 feature triplets in the voice and piano. Measure 73 continues the triplet patterns. Measures 74-75 show a change in mood, with the piano part becoming more expressive and the voice part more passionate. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, triplets, and dynamic markings.

77

77

79

79

81 *ritenuto - ad libitum* *Tempo primo*

quasi presto *f e molto ben ritmico*

81 *molto ritenuto* *Tempo primo*

estatico

p *pp* *pp*

secco *marcato*

84

84

88

ff

88

f

93

ff

96

mp

96

mf *molto crescendo* *ffff* *subito pp*

99

p

99

p *cantabile* *fff* *senza pedale*

Leo. -----

102

m.s.
sfz subito p

107

p dolce *sfz* *sfz*

senza pedale *senza pedale* *senza pedale*

110

f *sfz* *subito fff* *subito pp* *p ma marcato* *senza pedale*

114

mp *sfz subito p* *sfz subito p* *loco*

117

117

f

mp

121

più f

ff

125

p

128

mf

pp

133

f marcato

133

(molto) *sfz ff p*

137

fff mf

137

fffz fff p dolce

141

f

141

f

145

accelerando poco a poco p

145

mp dolce f mf accelerando poco a poco

149 *più mosso* *poco a poco accelerando*

149 *p* *subito pp*

153 *mp*

153 *mp* *p*

157 *più accelerando*

157 *più accelerando*

161 *Vivo* *mf* *accelerando al fine*

161 *Vivo* *mp* *pesante* *accelerando al fine* *f*

165

165

subito pp e crescendo al fine

168

168

171

171

173

subito p crescendo e accelerando al fine

173

tr

tr

6

fffz

fffz

fffz

8vb

loco

III

Oboe

Derek Bell
(1935 -2002)

Toccata burlesca

Allegro

16

piano (m.d.)

glissando

tr

(17) (18) (19) (20)

21

(21) (22)

(oboe)

quasi presto

mf

25

p crescendo

29

33

p dolce

ffz

più dolce

p

36

p

mp

f

41

mf

f

47

p

5

57 *piano (m.d.)*

67 *Tempo di Valse (grazioso)*
mp dolce

71

76 *un poco appassionato*
mf

79

81 *ritenuto - ad libitum* *Tempo primo*
quasi presto *f e molto ben ritmico*

86

91 *ff*

96 *mp*

100 *p*

103

107

p dolce *sfz* *sfz*

111

f *mp*

116

f

123

più f *p* *piano (m.d.)*

135

f marcato *fff*

139

mf

145

accelerando poco a poco *p*

149

più mosso *poco a poco accelerando*

152

156 *mp* *più accelerando* 2

161 *Vivo* *mf*

164 *accelerando al fine*

167

170

173 *tr* *subito p* *crescendo e sempre accelerando al fine* *sffz* 6