

DEREK BELL

NOCTURNE
ON AN ICELANDIC MELODY

Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Harp (Piano)



AMORIS INTERNATIONAL

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ASI 006

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 Concert 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)



Nocturne on an Icelandic Melody

Oboe d'amore (Oboe) & Harp (Piano)

A SI 006

The late Ulster composer, Frederick A. Haughton, and I visited Iceland together in 1980. He discovered this traditional melody, which I set for oboe d'amore (or oboe) shortly after our trip. The pedal harp part is equally playable on the piano. I recorded my own performance of the harp accompaniment and, using this track as playback, broadcast the oboe d'amore version for BBC Belfast as its première in 1983.

Derek Bell
1997



Also by Derek Bell published by **Amoris International**

THREE TRANSCENDENTAL CONCERT STUDIES

- I *Ballade pastorale*, Oboe & Piano A SI 024
- II *Légende*, Cor anglais & Piano A SI 025
- III *Toccata burlesca*, Oboe & Piano A SI 026

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



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NOCTURNE ON AN ICELANDIC MELODY

Derek Bell
(1935 - 2002)

❖ Oboe d'amore (Oboe)

Andante con moto

mf (oboe)

Harp (Piano)

mp

p
e sempre espressivo

4

(oboe)

8

crescendo poco a poco

❖ In Concert Pitch

The musical score is written for piano and features a melody in the right hand and accompaniment in the left hand. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number (11, 14, 17, 20). The first system (measures 11-13) includes a *solo* marking and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic. The second system (measures 14-16) continues the melodic and harmonic development. The third system (measures 17-19) shows further melodic elaboration. The fourth system (measures 20-22) includes a *(oboe)* marking above the right hand, suggesting a woodwind part. The piano accompaniment features various textures, including chords, arpeggios, and moving lines. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5, and some measures include slurs or ties.

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of three sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment starts with a grand staff, a key signature of three sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The second system continues the piano accompaniment with six measures, each featuring a descending eighth-note scale in the right hand and a bass note in the left hand. The measures are labeled with fingerings: 10, 9, 7, 7, 7, and 7. The score is written in black ink on white paper.

25 (oboe)

25

10

5

The image shows a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on a grand staff (treble and bass staves). The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps. The piano accompaniment begins with a grand staff and a key signature of three sharps. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line features a melodic phrase with a slur and a fermata. The piano accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with a slur and a fermata. The score is written in a standard musical notation style.

29

mp

mf

f

p

poco rit.

NOCTURNE ON AN ICELANDIC MELODY

Oboe d'amore

Derek Bell
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Andante con moto

The musical score is written for Oboe d'amore in 4/4 time, key of D major. It consists of 32 measures. The tempo is marked *Andante con moto*. The score includes the following dynamics and articulations:

- Measure 1: *mf* (mezzo-forte)
- Measure 4: *crescendo poco a poco* (crescendo a little by a little)
- Measure 9: *mf* (mezzo-forte)
- Measure 20: *mf* (mezzo-forte)
- Measure 29: *poco rit.* (a little slower)

The score is divided into systems of four staves each. The first system contains measures 1-4, the second system contains measures 5-8, the third system contains measures 9-12, the fourth system contains measures 13-16, the fifth system contains measures 17-20, the sixth system contains measures 21-24, the seventh system contains measures 25-28, and the eighth system contains measures 29-32. The score ends with a double bar line in measure 32.

NOCTURNE ON AN ICELANDIC MELODY

Oboe

Derek Bell
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Andante con moto

mf

crescendo poco a poco

mf

poco rit.