

DEREK BELL

NOCTURNE
ON AN ICELANDIC MELODY

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



AMORIS INTERNATIONAL

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AI SI 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

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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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