

DEREK BELL

THREE TRANSCENDENTAL
CONCERT STUDIES

II

Légende

Cor anglais & Piano



AMORIS INTERNATIONAL

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ASI 025

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

II *Légende*

Cor anglais & Piano

A SI 025

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

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II

Légende

Derek Bell
(1935 -2002)

❖ Cor anglais

Andante *espressivo*
p

Piano

Andante *espressivo*
pp

4

4

sempre legato e espressivo

7

7

p *pp*

❖ In Concert Pitch
AI SI 025

10

pp

mp

10

13

mp

8^{va} loco

8^{va} loco

pp

m.d. m.s. misterioso

13

16

dolce

8^{va} loco

8^{va}

pp

m.s.

p

16

19

p dolce *poco accelerando*

loco *pp* *misterioso*

22

Loco.

24

poco rallentando *espressivo* *misterioso*

26 *sempre più agitato*

pp *p*

28

mp *ff* *ff* *molto*

30

colla parte *sffz* *sffz*

31 *più agitato*

f *sffz* *mf* *p* *mp*

33 *ff* *rallentando molto* *fff*

35 *tempo primo*
ma molto maestoso *fff* *possibile*

36 *fff* *possibile*

37 *ff* *calmando poco a poco*

38

38

mf

30 *tempo primo*

30 *tempo primo espressivo*

p subito

41 *espressivo*

p

sfz *pp*

43

43 *espressivo*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains six systems of music. The first system (measures 38-39) features a grand staff with a treble clef and a bass clef. The right hand has a whole rest, while the left hand plays a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (6, 5, 6). A dynamic marking of *mf* is present. The second system (measures 30-39) is marked *tempo primo* and *tempo primo espressivo*. The right hand has a melodic line with slurs and a fermata. The left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment with slurs and fingerings (5, 5, 5). A dynamic marking of *p subito* is shown. The third system (measures 41-42) is marked *espressivo*. The right hand has a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The left hand has a complex accompaniment with slurs and fingerings (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 6). The fourth system (measures 41-42) shows a dynamic shift from *sfz* to *pp* in the right hand. The left hand continues with slurs and fingerings (5, 5, 5, 5, 5, 6, 5, 6). The fifth system (measures 43-43) features triplets in the right hand. The left hand has slurs and fingerings (6, 6, 6, 6, 5, 5, 6, 6). The sixth system (measures 43-43) is marked *espressivo* and continues the triplet and accompaniment patterns.

45 *p*

45 *f* *ff* *p* *molto dolce al fine*

47 *pp*

47 *sffz* *p*

49 *p* *meno cresc.* *un poco più crescendo*

49 *8va* *p*

51 *mp* *rallentando al fine*

51 *loco* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *rallentando al fine*

II

Légende

Cor anglais

Derek Bell
(1935 -2002)

Andante *espressivo*
p

5 *p*

9 *pp* *mp*

14 *dolce*

17 *p dolce*

21 *poco accelerando*
p

24 *poco rall.* ----- *sempre più agitato*
pp

27 *p* *mp*

20 *ff*

30

31 *più agitato*
f

33 *ff* *rallentando molto* *fff*

35 *tempo primo ma molto maestoso*
fff possibile *fff possibile* 4

41 *espressivo*
p

44 *p*

48 *p meno cresc.*

50 *un poco più cresc.* *mp* *rallentando* 2