

ORCHESTRA

4 piccolos (all doubling alto flutes)

cor anglais

3 clarinets in B♭

bass clarinet

contrabassoon

3 horns in F

4 trumpets

bass trumpet

2 trombones

tuba

percussion (3 players)

2 glockenspiels, bass drum

celesta

2 harps

5 violins

3 violas

8 double basses

The score is in C

Instrumental parts available on hire from the publishers

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The preferred string strength for this piece is 5 violins, 3 violas and 8 double basses. However, full orchestral violin and viola sections can also be employed, in which case the 5 violin parts should be distributed as follows:

parts 1, 2, 3 to Violins I (divided into 3)

parts 4, 5 to Violins II (divided into 2)

When full violin and viola sections are employed, the following distinctions between solo and tutti lines are suggested:

bars 1–6 *soli*

bars 12–15 *tutti*

bars 20–25 *soli*

bars 25 (from the *sfzp* chords)–37 *tutti*

bars 41–51 *soli*

bars 52–54 *tutti*

PROGRAMME NOTE

In his brief life the French composer-organist Nicolas de Grigny (1671–1703) published only one work, his *Livre d'Orgue*, yet this collection of 43 separate pieces impressed no less a figure than J. S. Bach, who assiduously made a hand copy of the first edition.

The *Livre d'Orgue* displays an impressive diversity of compositional skills, ranging from fugues to pieces of a highly free, almost improvisatory character, amongst these the *Récit de Tierce en Taille*. This movement is one of the jewels of Baroque organ music. Its extraordinary linear style, with its exuberant ornamentation, is supported by wonderfully sonorous harmony. The idiosyncratic registration is equally striking, with every note of the main melody doubled by an organ stop two octaves and a major third above – hence the title (*Recitative of the Third in the Tenor*).

I have orchestrated this piece for an identical ensemble to my *Palimpsests*, with the exception of an added cor anglais solo which is given some of the most intricate melodic passages. I have tried to capture the spirit of De Grigny's registration by frequently 'illuminating' the central melody with parallel harmonics which constantly change in depth and colour.

GB

for Nick and Ghislaine Kenyon

Récit de Tierce en Taille

NICOLAS DE GRIGNY
transcribed by GEORGE BENJAMIN

Larghetto

Musical score for the first section of Récit de Tierce en Taille. The score consists of five systems of music. The first system includes parts for 4 Piccolos, Cor Anglais, 3 Clarinets in B♭, Bass Clarinet, and Contrabassoon. The second system includes parts for 3 Horns in F, 4 Trumpets, Bass Trumpet, 2 Trombones, and Tuba. The third system includes a Percussion part for 3 players. The fourth system includes parts for Celesta and Harp 1. The fifth system includes a part for Harp 2.

Musical score for the second section of Récit de Tierce en Taille. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system includes parts for Celesta and Harp 1. The second system includes a part for Harp 2. The third system includes parts for 5 Violins, 3 Violas, and 8 Double basses. The fourth system continues the parts for 5 Violins, 3 Violas, and 8 Double basses.

Larghetto

Musical score for the third section of Récit de Tierce en Taille. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system includes parts for 5 Violins, 3 Violas, and 8 Double basses. The second system includes parts for 5 Violins, 3 Violas, and 8 Double basses. The third system includes parts for 5 Violins, 3 Violas, and 8 Double basses. The fourth system continues the parts for 5 Violins, 3 Violas, and 8 Double basses.

* multiple grace notes on the beat, all other grace notes (throughout) before the beat

A

6

Picc. *pp sempre senza vib.*

mf sempre senza vib.

p sempre senza vib.

ff sempre senza vib.

Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf sostenuto*

Cbsn *f sostenuto*

Tpt *p*

f

fp

p

Bass Tpt *p*

p

p

fp

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

SOLO

ff maestoso

SOLO

ff maestoso

Tbn. *ff sempre*

ff sempre

Tba *f*

ff

ff

Vln 4.

Vln 5.

Vle 2.

Vle 3.

1-8. unis., arco

Db. *f sonore e sostenuto*

A

4.

5.

2.

3.

1-8. unis., arco

Db. *f sonore e sostenuto*