

Peter Tranchell

Festive Overture

arranged for organ solo by
Tim Harper

(A3 edition)

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Peter Tranchell (1922-93) was a composer, Precentor of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge and Lecturer in Music at the University of Cambridge.

Festive Overture was written in 1966 for Peter Marchbank and the Basingstoke Musical Society Orchestra (now the Basingstoke Symphony Orchestra), and was first performed in the Haymarket Theatre, on Saturday 14th May 1966. Well received, it was repeated the following year. Apparently, the marking *con amore* (b. 149) caused consternation among the elderly viola players, who had never been faced with such an instruction before.

A recording by the BBC Concert Orchestra, conducted by John Wilson, was released on the 2010 Dutton Vocalion CD *John Ireland: Orchestral songs and miniatures*.

Being the son of one of PAT's organ scholars, Norman Harper, I first encountered the former's music on the latter's copy of the 1985 LP *Music from Caius*, then the *Festive Overture* on the CD mentioned above. Fortunate to have access to the typeset full score, I completed the arrangement for organ as a 2020 lockdown project and, noting the composer's centenary year, first performed it as part of the Ripon Cathedral Summer Organ Festival on 5th July 2022.

Having originally transcribed the work in my own personal house style, I have produced this edition to encourage more performances through its more user-friendly clefs and stave size; happily, the requirement for A3 format allows identical pagination with the masochist's edition, whose line breaks are deliberately matched to those of the printed orchestral full score (should you wish to check my work). In either edition, a copy of the first page of music, sellotaped into the score to make the first three pages visible at once, should facilitate a performance without the need of a page-turner. This pagination also makes the page breaks correspond with the major section breaks, thus aiding an appreciation of the music's structure.

The arrangement is intended for an English romantic organ equipped with solo reed options and playing aids. Crisp chorus work is vital, as is a knowledge of which stop changes an instrument can accomplish cleanly during rapid changes of dynamic. Though full (61/32) compasses would be ideal, provision is made for satisfactory performance on 58/30 (otherwise I wouldn't be able to play it at Ripon). Following consultation with the original conductor, I can suggest an abridged performance of bb. 1-108, 262-end for shorter recital programmes, as an encore or voluntary, or indeed for a more gradual learning process.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to John Gwinnell and Crispin Flower for allowing me the privilege of access to the scores; also to them and to Peter Marchbank for much expert advice and encouragement in the preparation of this score, and to all at the Peter Tranchell Foundation for the necessary permissions to perform and publish it: <https://peter-tranchell.uk> .

Tim Harper
Ripon, July-August 2022

Festive Overture

Peter Tranchell (1922-93)
arr. Tim Harper (b. 1986)

Allegro di molto

Organ

f Sw. Gt Sw.

Gt (add) *mf* Sw.

mp *mf* Sw.

LH Sw. (Gt) *mf*

mp (Sw.) RH Gt *mf* (Gt) *fp mf* (jump between Gt & Sw., ad lib.)

(+ notes thumbed on Gt) Sw. Gt (crisp) *mp*

38 *cresc.* *mf*

44 *cresc.* *mp* Sw. *f* *mp* Gt or So. (Gt) *sostenuto*
 (reduce on-> LH chord) Sw. *p*
 (G# Gt; E/B Sw.) Gt or So.

50 Sw.

56 *mf* (Sw.) (Gt) *stacc.* *pp* *mf*
 Sw. or Ch. *stacc.*

62 Gt *cresc.* *f* *cresc.* *poco rit.*

68 **Tempo** *dim.* *mp* *p dolce & sostenuto* *mp*
 Gt Sw.

Grazioso (slower)
Un poco meno mosso

rit.

74

RH Gt or So. *mp*
(8' with light 4')

RH Sw., if possible

(NB D-C)

(take higher D in RH)

(NB C-Bb)

mf

sost.

87

poco cresc.

mf

3

f

p

(trill if possible, perhaps in RH)

Sw.

accel.

un poco più mosso

92

f

p

(C in LH, Sw.)

Sw.

Allarg.

99

cresc.

Gt

Gt

f

(LH So. *ad lib.*)

ff dim.

p

poco rit.

105

Gt

Sw.

109 Tempo primo

f Gt (as at beginning) Sw.

Gt Sw. Gt (add) (reduce)

mf Sw. (or Gt) (C# in LH) Gt (or So. *f*) sost.

Gt (or So. *f*) Sw. (or Gt) *mp* (Gt) *f*

mf *f*

136 *mf cresc.*

stacc.

142

ff *dim.*

Gt

148 **rit.** **Affetuoso con moto**

Sw. stacc. quasi pizz.

p *mp cantabile con amore*

Gt (So. string with trem., coupled?)

stacc. quasi pizz.

156

poco cresc.

Gt

Sw.

(+ 32')

162

(LH Gt)

(32')

(-32')

168 **poco rit.** **a tempo** (Ch.)

Gt *pp* Sw.

(Sw.)

Tempo primo

p staccato

(LH Sw.)

S/P only (or play in LH)

175 (Gt) (Sw.)

(NB orchestration constantly changes in the original)

182 *cantabile* 16' 8' (or LH help) *mp* *sost.*

189 (NB D-C) (8') Gt Sw. + 16'

197 *mf* (Gt)

204 *mp* Sw. *mf cresc.* (NB dotted rhythm) S/P only

Grazioso
Un poco meno mosso

RH Sw, if possible (then to LH)

rit. (Sw.) (NB D-C) *mp* (Sw.) *mf* + 16' (NB A)

218

224

allarg. a tempo poco rit.

cresc. ff dim. mp

231

a tempo

(NB D-C)

(NB F)

Gt p mp

Sw.

238

pp dolce

Sw.

cresc. poco a poco

246

f

allarg.

252

a tempo rit. a tempo poco rit.

Sw. p pp

(tenor B perhaps in LH, RF or RH 8va)

Gt or Ch.

(F in LH or RF, as more convenient)

(32')

261 **G.P. Tempo primo**

f Sw. Gt *ff*

3 1-1
2

267

f *mf* *mp stacc.* *mf*

(NB sustained rhythm)

273

f *mf*

279 **poco accel.** **sempre accel.**

f *mf* *f cresc.*

(LH octaves)

284

ff *mp cresc.*

290 **G.P. in tempo** **Affettuoso grandioso**

ff *ff*

(+ notes on So./Ch., ad lib.)

296

poco dim.

302

cresc.

cresc.

poco accel.

a tempo

8^{va} or Tuba (poss. 8' 4") top notes only, loco

308

fff

dim.

314

rit.

Tempo primo

f

(So./Ch.)

320

(Gt)

(Gt)

(So./Ch.)

ff

325

tr (C/D)

LH Tuba

(RH Gt)

(G/A)

(Gt)

(LH/Ped. all available artillery)

sfz