

Tickle the Keys

for Organ and Piano

First Prize, 2025 Peter Tranchell Foundation Composition Prize

Maho Ishizaka

Program Note

Tickle the Keys was composed for the 2025 Peter Tranchell Foundation Composition Prize and draws inspiration from Peter Tranchell's *Twice a Kiss*. As the title suggests, the piece centres on passages of semiquavers in which the organ and piano playfully "tickle" the keys (see Figure 1). These passages are quotations from *Twice a Kiss* and, although not prominent in the original work, their delicate motion creates a distinctive sonic texture that forms the foundation of this composition.

In the middle section, three twelve-tone rows from Tranchell's autograph manuscript dated 18 March 1955 (see Figure 2) are used and harmonised with jazzy chords. At first, the piano freely presents the first tone row; next, the organ takes up and develops the second and third rows. And then, the piano performs diminutions of all three rows in an improvisatory manner, returning to the initial theme, with other fragments from *Twice a Kiss* acting as transitions. As the piece unfolds, the rows return in the organ part, accompanied by the piano's semiquaver passages, as the music builds towards its conclusion.



Figure 1: Semiquaver passage quoted from *Twice a Kiss*

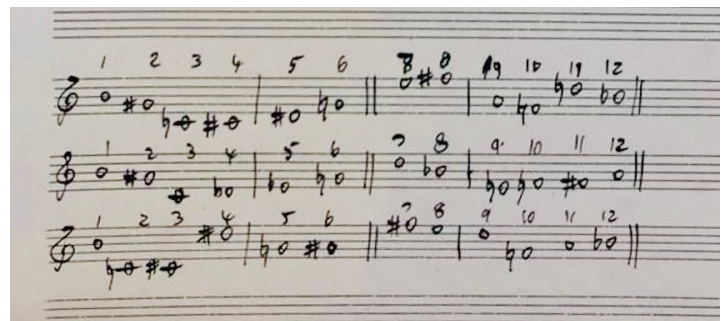


Figure 2: Twelve-tone rows from Peter Tranchell's autograph manuscript, 18 March 1955

Tickle the Keys

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Allegro giocoso (♩=132)

Organ

Use orchestral timbres

mf

Pedal

Allegro giocoso (♩=132)

Piano

O.

A

mp

Ped.

Pf.

Tickle the Keys

6

O.

Ped.

Pf.

This system contains measures 6, 7, and 8 of the piece. The Organ (O.) part features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern in the right hand, with a melodic line in the left hand starting in measure 7. The Pedal (Ped.) part has a single bass note in measure 6, followed by a half-note chord in measures 7 and 8. The Piano (Pf.) part consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment in both hands, with a melodic line in the right hand.

9

O.

Ped.

Pf.

This system contains measures 9, 10, and 11. The Organ (O.) part continues with the sixteenth-note pattern, with a melodic line in the left hand starting in measure 10. The Pedal (Ped.) part has a single bass note in measure 9, followed by a half-note chord in measures 10 and 11. The Piano (Pf.) part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment, with a melodic line in the right hand. A *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking is present in measure 11.

Tickle the Keys

B

12

O.

f

Ped.

Pf.

mp

15

O.

mf

Ped.

Pf.

Tickle the Keys

18

O.

f

Ped.

Pf.

C

21

O.

f

mf

Ped.

Pf.

f

mp

f

Tickle the Keys

D

25

O.

f

Ped.

Pf.

29

O.

mp *mf* *p* *pp*

Ped.

Pf.

p *mp* *f*

Tickle the Keys

E

33

O.

p

Ped.

Pf.

33

pp

36

O.

cresc.

f

Ped.

36

cresc.

f

Pf.

Tickle the Keys

F

40 **Andante cantabile** (♩=80) *poco rit.* **G** *a tempo*

O.

Ped.

Andante cantabile (♩=80) *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Pf.

a piacere *mp*

8va

46

O.

Ped.

Pf.

46

mp *mf*

Tickle the Keys

52 *poco rit.*

O.

Ped.

Pf.

mf *mp*

poco rit.

mf

gva -----

H 57 *a tempo*

O.

Ped.

Pf.

a tempo

mp *mf*

Tickle the Keys

60

O.

mp

5

5

Ped.

Pf.

f

I

63

O.

mp

3

Ped.

Pf.

mf

3

3

3

3

Tickle the Keys

66

O.

mf

Ped.

Pf.

J

69

poco rit.

mp

O.

Ped.

Tempo I (♩=132)

poco rit.

p

Pf.

Tempo I (♩=132)

Tickle the Keys

73

O.

mf

K

mp

Ped.

Pf.

f

77

O.

Ped.

Pf.

Tickle the Keys

80

O.

mf

Ped.

Pf.

gva

L

83

O.

f

Ped.

Pf.

mp

Tickle the Keys

86

O.

mp

Ped.

Pf.

89

O.

f

Ped.

Pf.

f *ff*

Tickle the Keys

M

91

O.

ff

mf

f

mf

Ped.

Pf.

mf

95

O.

f

p

mf

Ped.

Pf.

f

mf

Tickle the Keys

N

99

O. *f*

Ped.

Pf.

103

O.

Ped.

Pf.

Tickle the Keys

107

O.

Ped.

Pf.

O

f

mf

111

O.

Ped.

Pf.

f

fp

ff