

Music for the Royal Fireworks

"A spectacle of English pride and joy" - Mozart

G.F. Handel (1685-1759) • Arranged by Joseph M.Chopp

Bourée

♩ = 100

Trumpet 1 (Bb)

Trumpet 2 (Bb)

Horn (F)

Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

7

Largo alla Siciliana $\text{♩} = 50$

La Paix

(melody)

5

9

Menuet II

d = 130

13

Historical Context:

This composition was first performed outside prior to the fireworks display. Other than the music, the fireworks did not go well! Rainy weather caused many fireworks to misfire. The pavilion caught fire, a woman's clothes were set alight, two soldiers were burned and another blinded. During a rehearsal with the 101 cannons, a soldier had his hand blown off. (Wikipedia)

Original Instrumentation:

24 oboes (12-8-4), 12 bassoons (8-4), a contrabassoon, 9 natural trumpets (3-3-3), and 9 natural horns (3-3-3), plus 3 pairs of kettledrums and side (snare) drums which were only given the direction to play ad libitum on La Rejouissance and Menuet II. Handel omitted the string instruments against his will because King George wanted "no fiddles." (Wikipedia)

About this Arrangement:

In La Rejouissance and Menuet II, the trumpet parts include some additions written for the violins/oboes. The horn and trombone parts are essentially the third trumpet and viola parts respectively. Tympani is optional. A field and/or snare drum may be added, playing the rhythm of the tympani part. The original keys were F, D, D, F and D. The arrangement keys were changed to accommodate the ranges of contemporary brass-quintet instruments.

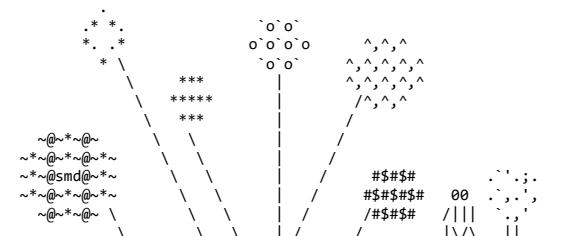
Performance Notes:

The trills are the only markings on the composition; (trombone "trills" in this arrangement are optional). Tempo (bpm) and articulation are suggestions of the arranger. The staccato in the tympani part seeks crispness; perhaps a harder mallet will do. No matter what articulation is used, it is essential that everything is done consistently and together, particularly the ending of notes.

The Loure (tenuto-staccato) marking is used to differentiate a short staccato from a plain note, i.e. play these notes tenuto (broadly), but with a space in between that is not a short staccato. Executing this articulation will give the music a crisp, clean sound.

Expanding the Quintet:

This is a good idea, especially for playing outside to more closely duplicate the original performance (the music, not the fireworks). Consider distributing the parts similarly to Handel's proportionate example.



Trumpet 1 (Bb)

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Bourée

$\text{♩} = 100$

The sheet music consists of six staves of musical notation for trumpet. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is indicated as $\text{♩} = 100$. The music is in common time. The first staff begins with a dotted half note followed by a series of eighth notes and sixteenth-note patterns. The second staff continues with a similar pattern. The third staff starts at measure 12, featuring a more complex sixteenth-note pattern. The fourth staff begins at measure 18, with a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes. The fifth staff starts at measure 24, showing a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The sixth staff begins at measure 30, with a final instruction "rit. on repeat" written below it. The music concludes with a single note at measure 36.

Largo alla Siciliana $\text{♩} = 50$ **La Paix**

Largo alla Siciliana $\text{♩} = 50$

4 (melody)

8 3

14

La RejouissanceAllegro $\text{♩} = 120$

Allegro $\text{♩} = 120$

5

9

13

17 rit. on repeat

Menuet I

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score for Menuet I consists of two staves of music for trumpet. The first staff begins with a measure of common time (indicated by a '4') followed by a measure of 3/4 time (indicated by a '3'). Measure 8 starts with a measure of 3/4 time. The second staff begins at measure 15. Measure 23 includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.). The music features various note heads, stems, and rests, with dynamic markings like 'tr' (trill) and 'rit' (ritardando).

Menuet II

$\text{♩} = 130$

The musical score for Menuet II consists of two staves of music for trumpet. The first staff begins at measure 8. The second staff begins at measure 16. Both staves feature measures with dotted rhythms and sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 16 includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.). The music uses various note heads, stems, and rests, with dynamic markings like 'tr' (trill) and 'rit' (ritardando).