

George Frideric Handel

## Overture

for 2 Clarinets and Corno di Caccia  
für 2 Klarinetten und Corno di Caccia

Edited by / Herausgegeben von  
Karl Haas

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**PREVIEW**  
Low Resolution

## NOTE

The first dated scores containing clarinet parts were those of the sixteenth-century German composer Melchior Molter (1734). According to the *Dublin Mercury*, a Hungarian clarinetist performed in a concerto in Dublin in 1742, and it is possible that Handel heard him. Handel's *Symphony in D major* (HWV 288) composed a concerto for clarinet about the year 1745.

Military bands in France and England seem to have used the clarinet in the eighteenth century with the oboes. Had Handel come across one of these bands when he was in Italy or in France? We cannot be certain, but it is very possible that he was familiar with the idea of using more than one player to each part, as in the military bands of the time.

The *Andante-Allegro* contains material which is to be found in the 'Entry of the Queen of Sheba,' and this dates the work as having been composed in 1745.

This unique piece is preserved in Handel's original manuscript in the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge, but copies are in existence elsewhere. The original is in Handel's own handwriting, the marking of the parts for Clarinet and Horn is in the hand of Johann Christian Bach. The parts are untransposed, but the clarinet part is in D major, and the horn part, also in D, was obviously intended to sound in E-flat major. There are no correction marks of any kind in the score, and the parts are clearly intended to be played as written.

We acknowledge most gratefully the assistance of the Secretary of the Fitzwilliam Museum to publish this score.

Karl Haas

# OUVERTURE

For two Clarinets and Corno di Caccia (Horn in F)  
or two Violins and Viola

Edited and arranged  
by KARL HAAS

G. F. HANDEL

(Moderato)

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Corno di Caccia

*f*

*f*

*f*

*p*

*p*

10

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

20

*f*

*f*

*f*

Allegro ma non troppo

30

The musical score consists of multiple systems of three staves each. The first system begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Allegro ma non troppo' and the number '30' is written above the first staff. The first staff of the first system starts with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second system includes markings for *mf* and *tr* (trills). The third system features *f* (forte) and *p cresc.* (piano crescendo) markings. The fourth system includes *mf* and *mf cresc.* markings. The fifth system starts with *f*. The sixth system also starts with *f*. The score concludes with a final *f* marking.

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50

The musical score consists of three systems, each with three staves. The first system starts with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mp* and a *cresc.* marking. The second staff has a *cresc.* marking. The third staff starts with a *mp* marking. The second system features a *p* marking in the first staff, a *mf* marking in the second staff, and a *mf* marking in the third staff. The third system includes a *mp* marking in the first staff, a *mp* marking in the second staff, and a *mf* marking in the third staff. The fourth system shows a *mf cresc.* marking in the first staff, a *cresc.* marking in the second staff, and a *f* marking in the third staff. The fifth system has a *cresc.* marking in the first staff, a *mf cresc.* marking in the second staff, and a *f* marking in the third staff. The sixth system features a *cresc.* marking in the first staff, a *f* marking in the second staff, and a *f* marking in the third staff.

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Larghetto

*mf cantabile*

20

*mf*

(tr)

*p*

*mf*

50

(tr)

Musical notation for measures 55-59. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The second and third staves provide harmonic accompaniment, with the third staff marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Musical notation for measures 60-69. Measure 60 is marked with a tempo of 60. The first staff includes a trill ornament (*tr*) and a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The second and third staves continue the accompaniment, also marked *mf*.

Musical notation for measures 70-74. Measure 70 is marked with a tempo of 70. The first staff includes a trill ornament (*tr*) and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The system concludes with a first and second ending bracket.

*Andante Allegro*

Musical notation for measures 75-84. The first staff of this system features a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The second and third staves are marked *p* (piano). The system ends with a dynamic marking of *p* and a fermata over the final note.