

Two hands to the pipe for clarinet and strings (or piano)

Alan Bullard (1994)

Two hands to the pipe is a folk-song collected in South Uist, Hebrides, in 1948 by Margaret Fay Shaw from the singing of Annie Macdonald. The tune is said to have been played by a piper while he explored a cave in the company of his dog. The dog eventually appeared at the far end of the cave with all his hair missing - but the piper was never seen again, although his piping can still sometimes be heard.

The words of the song (translated from the Gaelic) are:

Two hands to the pipe, and a hand to the sword,
Sad today that I am without three hands!

The tune, and the story behind it, provided me with the starting point for this piece, which was commissioned by Antonia Mott and the St Botolph's Music Society, conductor Colin Nicholson, with help from the Harvey Benham Trust.

First performance: Antonia Mott (clarinet) and the Orchestra of the St. Botolph's Music Society, conductor Colin Nicholson, July 1st, 1995.

Duration c. 10 minutes

A clarinet and piano version is available

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Two hands to the pipe

for clarinet and strings

Alan Bullard

Allegro ritmico (♩ = 120)

1

Clarinet in Bb

1

Violin 1

1

Violin 2

1

Viola

1

Violoncello

1

Double Bass

6

Cl.

6

Vn. 1

6

Vn. 2

6

Vla.

6

Vc.

6

D.B.

Preview File Only

all metronome markings are approximate

A

11

Clt. *f* *espress.*

Vn. 1 *p*

Vn. 2 *p*

Vla. *arco* *p*

Vc. *arco* *p*

D.B. *arco* *p*

17

Clt.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

22

Clt. *fp* *f*

Vn. 1 *mf*

Vn. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

27

Clt. **B** *tr* *tr* *fp* *fp*

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

32 *f* *tr* **C**

Clt.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

37

Clt.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

D

42

Clt. *mf*

Vn. 1 *p*

Vn. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

D.B. *p*

47

Clt.

Vn. 1 *f* *p* *f* *tr*

Vn. 2 *f* *p* *f* *tr*

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *tr*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *tr*

D.B.

52 **E**

Cl. *f*

Vn. 1 *p*

Vn. 2 *p*

Vla. *f* col leg.

Vc. *f* col leg.

D.B. *f* col leg.

58

Cl.

Vn. 1

Vn. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.