

An Arctic Tale

for grand carillon

Anthony Skilbeck

The chromatic range required is from the bass clef second space c (c# & d# are not required) to c'''' (when middle c is c'), the highest note for the pedals being f'.

Careful alterations to the score could be made to enable the piece to be played on carillons not having this complete range.

Programme note

An Arctic Tale is derived from my work for chamber ensemble of August 1999, *Of a Quondam Rara Avis*. An organ transcription (*Legend*) of the final section of this work was also made.

Of a Quondam rara Avis was inspired by Sheenagh Pugh's poem *Envyng Owen Beattie*, which tells of Beattie's team discovering where members of Sir John Franklin's Arctic expedition had been buried.

In the harsh yet beautiful setting of the Arctic landscape, Pugh's poem leads the reader to reflect on various opposites and paradoxes, and movingly relates how Beattie's team melted the ice around one of the bodies to reveal that of John Torrington, a twenty-year-old ship's stoker who had died of malnourishment and tuberculosis.

I hope that *An Arctic Tale* succeeds in engendering at least some of the thoughts and feelings likely to have been experienced by the people who witnessed this.

Anthony Skilbeck

An Arctic Tale was composed in January 2000. The World Premiere was given by Jeffrey Bossin on the Tiergarten carillon in Berlin on September 17th of that year.

AN ARCTIC TALE

AN ARCTIC TALE
for carillon

ANTHONY SKILBECK
Anthony Skilbeck

2000
January, 2000

Also suitable for mean-tone temperament.

Recitativo $\text{♩} = c. 76$ Duration: c. 8'

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The treble staff begins with a *mf* dynamic and a crescendo hairpin. The music features a series of eighth notes with various accidentals (flats and sharps). The bass staff is mostly silent, with a few notes appearing later in the system. The time signature is 2/4.

The second system continues the musical piece. The treble staff starts with a *mp* dynamic and includes a series of notes with letters B, A, C, B, A, C, B, A, C, B, A, C, H written above them. The dynamics change to *f* and then *mf*. The bass staff has some notes and rests. The time signature is 3/4.

$\text{♩} = 88$, or faster if possible - up to $\text{♩} = 112$

The third system features a *f furioso* section. The treble staff has a rapid sequence of notes, with a *f* dynamic. The bass staff has a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic. The time signature is 2/4.

The fourth system includes a *con arroganza* section. The treble staff has a rapid sequence of notes with a *f* dynamic. The bass staff has a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic. The time signature is 2/4.

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mf

musical score system 1, measures 1-4. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mf*, *f furioso*, *con arroganza*. Includes a *mf* dynamic marking in the bass line.

musical score system 2, measures 5-8. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *declamando*. Includes measure numbers 25 and 30.

musical score system 3, measures 9-12. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *f con arroganza*, *con fuoco*. Includes measure numbers 35 and 38.

musical score system 4, measures 13-16. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *ff*, *f agitato*, *f* — *mf*. Includes measure numbers 40 and 42.

Shilbaer: An Arctic Tale

2nd time to Coda

Between bars 48 and 68, melody notes (to be marked) are lozenge-shaped.

rilevo

ff declamando

mp penseroso

p

p

$\text{♩} = 84$

sempre p

pochissimo rit.

A tempo (♩ = 84) mf calore

p distante

mp

p

poco a poco animato

mp

p

mf

mf

f deciso

Stillwell: An Arctic Tale

♩ = 88

f animato

mf

ff

allarg.

f

♩ = 88(+)

ff furiosa

declanando

ppchissimo rit.

pp delicato

65

70

ff

A tempo (♩ = 88(+))

f con arroganza

con fuoco

75

mf

agitato

Spillbeck: An Arctic Tale

6

A tempo (♩ = c. 76)

H C A B A B A B

rit. 180 mp 5

molto rall.

f f "resigned" 185

This piece is derived from my work for chamber ensemble of August, 1999 - "Of a Quondam Rare Axis." In bars 201 to 221 and bars 242 to 260, the tubular bells player is instructed to play with the damper off - "quasi castillon".

Skilbeck: An Arctic Tale