

HANS GÁL · WORK NOTES

Toccata

for organ · Opus 29 · 1928

Movements	Introduction, Theme with four variations, Fugue
Duration	15 minutes
Publisher	Simrock (1928), now Boosey & Hawkes
Availability	Available from Boosey&Hawkes: in print (M221115294)
First performance	Leipzig, Sep. 1928 (Günther Ramin)
Other performances	Günther Ramin, Leipzig, Oct. 1928; Mühlheim, Nov. 1928, Hamburg, Nov. 1930 Walter Drwenski, Berlin Radio, Jan. 1929 Hans Nürnberger, Hannover, Sep. 1929, Feb. 1930, Oct. 1931 Hermann Dettmer, Hannover, Sep. 1929, Jan. 1930 Hans Bachem, Köln, Oct. 1938 Utz, Wiesbaden, Apr. 1948 Käte von Tricht, Bremen, Jun. 1965; Stuttgart Radio, Mar. 1957, Feb. 1964; Graz, Jul. 1960 Käte von Tricht, Frankfurt, Feb. 1962; Edinburgh, Jun. 1969; Ulm, Sep. 1979 Roman Summereder, Perchtoldsdorf, Oct. 1990 Christian Wilson, Southwark, Feb. 2010

About the work

This work represents the only work for solo organ by the Austrian composer Hans Gál who took up a teaching post at the University of Edinburgh in 1945. The work was composed in 1928 and originally published by Simrock (Berlin). Gál laid out the work in three broad sections. The first ("Allegro") employs a tune in quarter notes in the top voice over brilliant sixteenth-note figuration in the left hand. Further working out of this material eventually gives way to a brief Andante. The final section is a sophisticated fugue that begins slowly ("lento tranquillo") and builds in speed and intensity to a tumultuous close. Midway through this section Gál combined the fugue subject with the Andante theme. Whether this seldom performed work will take its place in the repertoire remains to be seen. However, the re-publication in this edition at least lends hope that it will receive more well-deserved performances.' [Dr. Charlotte Kroeker: Resources for the Parish Organist, www.nd.edu/~icl/music/organ-resource.shtml].

Printed music

Recordings

Hans Gal Orgelwerke

Hans Gál (1890-1987): Orgelwerke/Organ Works

Concertino for organ (Op.55), Toccata (Op.29), 2 Religious songs (Op.21), Prelude & Fugue, Phantasia Arioso & Capriccioso

István Mátyás (organ), Adrineh Simonian (soprano), David Pennetzdorfer (cello), Orchester Wiener Akadenie/Martin Haselböck.

NCA 60162 2007

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