

# James M. Stephenson

## Divertimento

for Piccolo Trumpet and Organ



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## **Divertimento** (1995)- Program Notes

by Jim Stephenson

Early on in my composing career, I decided to write a piece for an upcoming trumpet/organ recital I was to do in my then hometown of Naples, FL. Apparently I felt the urge to create a piece that had a silly story to it (it must have been late at night!), and thus this mini-tone poem was born. The piece stands alone just fine, but for those who are curious, the original story went something like this:

Once upon a time (all stories have to start that way, right?), there was a toy (piccolo trumpet). This toy really wanted to have a life of his own, and so he invented a melody. But his mean, mean master (the organ) didn't want his toy to have such a life, and so he put his foot down (literally). He used all of his resources to thwart the little toy melody. He changed harmonies, added wrong notes, and even took over the melody until finally, after much frustration, he yelled "Stop!" at the top of his lungs at his frightened little toy. "You, my toy, shall never live!" he declared, in his most authoritative tone.

The toy, gathering his wits about him, decided to try another angle to trick his master. He put on his best airs, showing off a little, and proceeded to try to outfox his master by lulling him to sleep with a beautiful tune. This worked for a while, and just when it appeared the master was almost asleep, he awoke with a start. Realizing that he was almost fooled by his lowly little toy, he became very angry, and chased it around and around, until finally, unsuccessful, he got very, very tired. The toy laughed at his master as he watched him slowly sink to the ground in utter exhaustion. Then, seeing his opportunity before him, he quickly tied his master up in ropes so that he could not move and triumphantly played his original melody. Finally the master gave in and joined in on the melody, which is jubilantly played together until the end. (But don't be fooled: the master manages to sneak in his final word before all was said and done!)

A word of warning: All of this happens in just 2 ½ minutes, so you must have a vivid and quick imagination!

# Divertimento

James Stephenson III

Trumpet *mf*

**Bright, humorous**

Organ *mf*

Pedals

6

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12

Musical score for measures 12-17. The score is in G major and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 12-14) is in 3/4 time. The second system (measures 15-16) is in 3/4 time. The third system (measures 17) is in 2/4 time. The piece features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the end of measure 17.

18

Musical score for measures 18-23. The score is in G major and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 18-19) is in 3/4 time. The second system (measures 20-21) is in 3/4 time. The third system (measures 22-23) is in 2/4 time. The piece features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamic markings of *f* are present at the beginning of measure 19 and the beginning of measure 22.

24

Musical score for measures 24-29. The score is in G major and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 24-25) is in 3/4 time. The second system (measures 26-27) is in 3/4 time. The third system (measures 28-29) is in 2/4 time. The piece features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *p* is present at the beginning of measure 25, with the instruction "slowly, rather timidly" above it. A section marker **A** is placed at the beginning of measure 28, with the instruction "Much slower, austere" to its right. Dynamic markings of *ff* are present at the beginning of measures 26, 27, 28, and 29.

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30

Musical score for measures 30-35. The score is in 3/4 time and features a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The piano part includes a *ff* dynamic marking. The vocal line is mostly rests, with some notes appearing in the final measure.

36

Musical score for measures 36-41. Measure 36 is a Cadenza for the vocal line, marked *p* and *mp*. The piano accompaniment continues with a *p* dynamic. A section marker **B** is present, followed by the tempo marking **Allegretto**. The time signature changes to 3/4.

42

Musical score for measures 42-46. The vocal line features a long melodic phrase. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

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48

Musical score for measures 48-53. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo markings are *un poco rit.* and *a tempo*. The dynamic marking *f* is present.

54

Musical score for measures 54-59. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The tempo marking is **C** *Presto chase-o*. The dynamic markings are *pp*, *f*, and *ff*.

60

Musical score for measures 60-65. The score is in 2/4 time and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

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66

Musical score for measures 66-71. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The top staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and rests. The grand staff provides harmonic support with chords and bass lines. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

72

Musical score for measures 72-77. The system consists of three staves. The top staff features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *ff* and a *f* later in the measure. The grand staff below provides accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *ff* is placed in the grand staff in measure 75. A box containing the letter 'D' is located above the grand staff in measure 76. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

78

Musical score for measures 78-83. The system consists of three staves. The top staff contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The grand staff below provides accompaniment with chords and bass lines. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

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84

Musical score for measures 84-89. The score is in treble, grand staff, and bass clef. It features a melody in the treble clef and accompaniment in the grand staff. The dynamic marking *f* is present. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

90

Musical score for measures 90-95. The score is in treble, grand staff, and bass clef. It features a melody in the treble clef and accompaniment in the grand staff. The dynamic marking *rit.* is present. The tempo marking **Very slow, tired** is present. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

96

Musical score for measures 96-101. The score is in treble, grand staff, and bass clef. It features a melody in the treble clef and accompaniment in the grand staff. The dynamic marking *f* and *ff* are present. The tempo marking **Tempo Primo** is present. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/4. The marking *in 8* is present.

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102

Musical score for measures 102-107. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a harmonic accompaniment in the grand staff. A fermata is placed over the final measure of this system.

108

Musical score for measures 108-113. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is two sharps. The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a harmonic accompaniment in the grand staff. A fermata is placed over the final measure of this system.

114

Musical score for measures 114-119. The system consists of three staves: a single treble clef staff at the top, and a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) below. The key signature is two sharps. The time signature is 3/4. The music features a melodic line in the treble staff and a harmonic accompaniment in the grand staff. The score includes dynamic markings: *ff* (fortissimo) and *rit.* (ritardando). The word "Broaden" is written above the first measure of the treble staff and above the first measure of the grand staff. A fermata is placed over the final measure of this system.