W. A. MOZART

Fantasia in F minor for a Mechanical Organ
("für eine Orgelwalze")

K 608

Notes:
I have set the composer’s original version here (see also my arrangement of the Andante only for recorders on free-scores.com). As the music was intended for mechanical performance, I thought it appropriate to add mp3 files of my computer’s playing of the piece.

The title “Orgelwalze” clearly indicates some sort of organ, rather than the bells (for which the music is clearly unsuitable) used in some of the versions available on the web.

There is sometimes a rather poor balance between parts - which would probably be automatically compensated for by human players; I have made no attempt to correct this as it is surely inherent in a mechanical performance. Although dynamics were presumably not possible on the original mechanism, I have cheated to the extent of allowing a ‘change of stop’ for the Andante. Without this, either the Allegro sounded feeble or the Andante sounded unbearably coarse. I have made a minor change in bar 157 where the original (even in the NMA edition) does not have quite enough notes in the third stave.

There are two mp3 files: one played on a “flute stop” and one on a more ‘reedy’ sound. The ‘flute’ sound is probably more authentic, but a lot of the detail in the lower parts is lost. The ‘reed stop’ version is better in this respect.

Set and realised by Donald Williams, April 2012
Fantasie in F
"für eine Orgelwalze"

Allegro

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