

Handel - Music for the Royal Fireworks; Water Music (Marriner) [1986]

Written by bluesever

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Music For The Royal Fireworks A1.1 *Ouverture* A1.2 *Bourrée* A1.3 *La Paix* A1.4 *La Réjouissance* A1.5 *Menuet And Trio* Water Music Suite In G Major A2.1 *Menuet And Trio* A2.2 *Rigaudon I And II* A2.3 *Gigue* Water Music Suite In D Major B1.1 *Prelude* B1.2 *Hornpipe* B1.3 *Minuet* B1.4 *Lentement* B1.5 *Bourrée* Water Music Suite In F Major B2.1 *Ouverture* B2.2 *Adagio E Staccato* B2.3 *Hornpipe And Andante* B2.4 *Jig* B2.5 *Air* B2.6 *Minuet* B2.7 *Bourrée And Hornpipe* B2.8 *Gavotte*
Harpsichord [Continuo] - Colin Tilney
Academy Of St. Martin-in-the-Fields
Neville Marriner – conductor

The Water Music is a collection of orchestral movements, often considered three suites, composed by George Frideric Handel. It premiered on 17 July 1717 after King George I had requested a concert on the River Thames. The concert was performed by 50 musicians playing on a barge near the royal barge from which the King listened with close friends, including the Duchess of Bolton, the Duchess of Newcastle, the Countess of Godolphin, Madam Kilmarnock, and the Earl of Orkney. George I was said to have enjoyed the suites so much that he made the exhausted musicians play them three times over the course of the outing.

All the instruments in the Baroque orchestra were included in the composition, except the harpsichord and timpani, which would have been inconvenient to bring onto the barge. The suites' music reflects this, with strings, for example, providing support usually afforded by the timpani. The instrumentation varies depending on the movement, but the requirements in a complete performance are a flute, two oboes, one bassoon, two horns, two trumpets, strings, and continuo: this instrumentation is effective in outdoor performance. (Some of the music is

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also preserved in a contemporary score written for a smaller orchestra: this version is not suitable for outdoor performance, as the sound of stringed instruments does not carry well in the open air).

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