

Georg Gerson

(1790–1825)

Ouverture

à grand Orchestre

G.147

Score
(Contemporized)

Edited by
Christian Mondrup

Contemporized edition

Georg Gerson (1790-1825)

2

Solo

11

Fl *mf* *f* *f* *ff*

Ob *f* *rf* *rf* *ff*

Cl *mf* *f* *f* *ff*

Bsn *f* *f* *f* *ff*

Cr *f* *tenuto* *ff*

Trp *f* *tenuto* *ff*

Trb

Tim *f* *ff*

Vl1 *f*

Vl2 *f*

Vla *f* *p*

Vcl *f*

Cb *f*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score, likely for a symphony orchestra. It contains measures 11 through 15. The instruments listed on the left are Flute (Fl), Oboe (Ob), Clarinet (Cl), Bassoon (Bsn), Cor (Cr), Trumpet (Trp), Trombone (Trb), Timpani (Tim), Violin I (Vl1), Violin II (Vl2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vcl), and Contrabass (Cb). The Flute and Clarinet parts have a 'Solo' marking in measure 11. Dynamics are indicated by letters: *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *rf* (ritardando forte), and *p* (piano). The 'tenuto' marking is used for sustained notes in the Cor and Trumpet parts. The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The bottom of the page has a page number '4'.

5

6

25 Allegro

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

pizz

col arco

arco

p

pp

pp

pp

pizz

arco

p

pizz

arco

p

pizz

arco

p

pizz

arco

p

30

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

Solo

p

Solo

p

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 30 through 35. Measures 30-34: Flute (Fl), Oboe (Ob), Clarinet (Cl), Bassoon (Bsn), Cor Anglais (Cr), Trumpet (Trp), Trombone (Trb), and Timpani (Tim) all have whole rests. Violin 1 (Vl1) plays a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Violin 2 (Vl2) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vcl), and Contrabass (Cb) play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 35: Clarinet (Cl) and Bassoon (Bsn) have a solo. The Cl part starts with a quarter rest followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note G4, eighth notes A4, Bb4, and C5, all beamed together. The Bsn part has a similar pattern but starts with a quarter rest. Both parts are marked with a piano (p) dynamic. Measures 36: All instruments return to their previous parts. The woodwinds have whole rests, and the strings continue their accompaniment.

36

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

p

p

p

p

p

[illegible]

11

49

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

for

f

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 49, 50, and 51. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 49: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Violin I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass provide a harmonic accompaniment. Measure 50: The woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) have whole rests. The strings continue their accompaniment. Measure 51: The woodwinds have whole rests. The Cor, Trumpet, and Trombone enter with a strong, sustained chord marked with a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic and the word *for*. The strings continue their accompaniment.

52

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

f

f

f

f

f

55

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

This musical score page contains measures 55 through 57. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl), Oboe (Ob), Clarinet (Cl), and Bassoon (Bsn). The brass section includes Cor Anglais (Cr), Trumpet (Trp), and Trombone (Trb). The percussion section includes Timpani (Tim). The string section includes Violin I (Vl1), Violin II (Vl2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vcl), and Contrabass (Cb). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. In measure 55, the Flute and Bassoon play a melodic line with accents, while the Oboe and Clarinet play a more active line. The strings provide a rhythmic foundation with eighth-note patterns. In measure 56, the Oboe and Bassoon have a forte (ff) dynamic marking. In measure 57, the Clarinet has a forte (f) dynamic marking. The score uses various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

58

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

for

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

rf rf rf rf

rf rf rf rf

rf rf rf rf

rf rf rf rf

16

68

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

Solo, dolce

p

Solo

p

Solo

p

73

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

78

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

f

f

f

f

p

f

p

f

p

f

p

f

tr

tr

tr

84

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

for

Tim

tr
f

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

88

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

ten

f

ffor

f

p

pp

Solo

93

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

p

Solo

p

pp

p

98

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

pf

p

pf

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 98 to 102. Measures 98-101 are mostly rests for the woodwinds and strings. Violin I (Vl1) has a melodic line starting in measure 98. Violin II (Vl2) has a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 99. Viola (Vla) has a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 102. Violoncello (Vcl) has a melodic line starting in measure 98. Contrabass (Cb) has a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 99. Dynamics include *pf* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats).

103

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

p

pf

p

25

26

118

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

f

Soli
f

Solo
f

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 118 through 122. Measures 118-121 show the woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) playing chords, mostly in the right hand, with some slurs. The strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass) are playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Cor Anglais is silent. In measure 122, the Trumpet and Timpani have a solo, both marked 'f' (forte). The woodwinds continue their chordal pattern.

28

128

Fl *f*

Ob *Soli* *p*

Cl *f*

Bsn *f* *pp* 8

Cr *f*

Trp *f*

Trb *for* *p*

Tim *f* *pp*

Vl1 *f* *p*

Vl2 *f* *p*

Vla *f* *p*

Vcl *f* *p*

Cb *f* *p*

30

137

Fl *p*

Ob

Cl *p*

Bsn *Solo* *p*

Cr *p*

Trp *p*

Trb *p*

Tim *p*

Vl1 *p*

Vl2 *p*

Vla *p*

Vcl *p*

Cb *p*

143

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

Solo

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

33

153

157

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

f

f

for

161

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

ff

ff

164

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

f

for

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system contains parts for Flute (Fl), Oboe (Ob), Clarinet (Cl), Bassoon (Bsn), Cor (Cr), Trumpet (Trp), and Trombone (Trb). The second system contains parts for Timpani (Tim), Violin 1 (Vl1), Violin 2 (Vl2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vcl), and Contrabass (Cb). Measure 164 begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) for the Bassoon and Trumpet. The Oboe and Clarinet parts feature long, sustained notes. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts play a rapid, continuous sixteenth-note pattern. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts play a slower, more melodic line. The Trombone part has a long note in measure 164 and a rest in measure 165. The Timpani part is silent throughout the measures. The word *for* is written below the Trombone staff in measure 166.

167

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

rf *rf* *rf* *rf*

rf *rf* *rf* *rf*

rf *rf* *rf* *rf*

p

172

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

p

f

177

Fl *p*

Ob *Solo* *p*

Cl *Solo* *p*

Bsn

Cr *Solo* *p*

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

[illegible]

189

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

for

tr

tr

194

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

ff

rf

ff

ff

rf

rf

f

tr

tr

[illegible]

202

206

47

This musical score page contains measures 213 through 216. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl), Oboe (Ob), Clarinet (Cl), Bassoon (Bsn), Cor Anglais (Cr), Trumpet (Trp), Trombone (Trb), Timpani (Tim), Violin I (Vl1), Violin II (Vl2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vcl), and Contrabass (Cb). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 213 features rapid sixteenth-note passages in the woodwinds and strings, with 'rf' (ritardando) markings. Measure 214 continues these passages. Measure 215 shows a transition with sustained notes in the woodwinds and strings, and a 'tr' (trill) marking in the timpani. Measure 216 features a 'Solo' for the Oboe and 'p' (piano) dynamics for the woodwinds and strings.

217

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Solo

p

Solo

p

Cr

pp

Trp

Soli

pp

Trb

Tim

Solo

pp

Vl1

p

Vl2

p

Vla

p

Vcl

p

Cb

p

223 *Solo*

Fl *p* *f*

Ob *p* *f*

Cl *f*

Bsn *f*

Cr *f*

Trp *f*

Trb *for*

Tim *f*

Vl1 *f*

Vl2 *f*

Vla *f*

Vcl *f*

Cb *f*

51

231

Fl

Ob

Cl

Bsn

Cr

Trp

Trb

Tim *tr~*

Vl1

Vl2

Vla

Vcl

Cb

Critical notes

This score is the first modern edition of the orchestral overture in E♭ major (G.147) by the Danish composer “Georg Gerson” (1790-1825). The primary source is a collection of manuscript fair copy scores prepared by the composer 1823, preserved at the Royal Library of Copenhagen, Denmark.

The sources are:

- GS* “Partiturer No. 3”, “George Gersons samling: mu 7105.0963 C II, 6b” (1823), a collection of manuscript scores by Gerson preserved at the Royal Library of Copenhagen, Denmark. The score is found on pp. 97–119, dated Copenhagen, September 1, 1818. Below the score title Gerson has added in red hand writing “Selv giennemseet og corrigert i May 1819” (reviewed and corrected by me in May 1819). There are numerous corrections in red throughout the score.
- MA* An undated (early 19th century?) manuscript score, “Second Ouverture composée par George Gerson” from the archive of the music association, “Musikforeningen” preserved at the Royal Library of Copenhagen, Denmark, “Musikforeningens Archiv. A. Nr. 149: C II, 27b Tv.-Fol., 1937-38.396”.
- OB* An Undated (early 19th century?) set of manuscript instrumental parts to “Ouverture i Es” from “Orkesterbiblioteket” (Musikforeningen’s orchestral library) preserved at the Royal Library of Copenhagen, Denmark, “Mf. 149”. The part set includes parts for 4 musicians on violin I, 3 on violin II, 2 on viola, 4 on violoncello and bass, 2 on flute I-II, 2 on oboe I-II, 2 on clarinet I-II, 2 on bassoon I-II, 2 on french horn I-II, 2 on trumpet I-II, 1 on bass trombone and 1 on timpani.

The trombone part included in the modern edition is found in *MA* and *OB* only. According to Gerson’s own thematic catalogue “Verzeichniß über Zwei Hundert meiner Compositionen”.¹ the overture got its first performance in Copenhagen September 1818 in one of the amateurs concerts conducted by Magnus Foght (1784–1830), musician in the Royal Orchestra. According to N. C. L. Abrahams (1798–1870) Gerson was mainstay of the amateurs concerts.² An announcement in the news paper “Kiøbenhavns Kongelig alene privilegerede Adresse-Contoires Efterretninger” October 10 1818 suggests that the actual date of the concert was October 14 1818 held in the house of “Det Venskabelige Selskab” (The Friendly Society).³ The concert, “understøttet af en stor Deel Dillettanter” (performed mainly by dilettantes), had on its first part the Egmont Overture by Beethoven, a scena⁴ by Georg Jakob (Jacques) Strunz (1781–1852) and a sonata for piano and violin by Ferdinand Ries (1784–1838). The second part of the concert was opened with a “Stor ny Ouverture, componeret af en Dilettant” (a grand new overture composed by a dilettante), actually referring to Gerson’s G.147.⁵ Next followed a potpourrie for viola by Joseph Küffner (1776–1856) and a cantata “Tonekunsten” (The Art of Music”) by the Danish composer Peter Casper Krossing (1793–1838). According to the announcement all compositions got their first performance in Copenhagen at this concert. The revised version of the overture was performed during the first concert season (1820–1821) of a new musical society, “Selskabet til Musikens Udbredelse” (The Society for Promotion of Music) having Gerson among its board members. On the explicit request of the soloist it was performed as the initial work of Bernhard Romberg’s (1767–1841) guest concert March 22 1821. “Once again we met this brilliant amateur, intimately acquainted with harmony, knowing how to unite melody and clarity with the strict demands of counterpoint as one would expect from a disciple of Andreas Romberg”.⁶

In his manuscripts Gerson made use of various shorthand notations like slashed notes representing repeated notes. Such notation types are also found in music prints from that period like Gerson’s string quartet no. 5 (G.63) published as part books 1826. The full score of this modern edition comes in two versions: a score

¹ Royal Library, Copenhagen, *mu 7105.0962, C II, 6b*.

² Nicolai Christian Levin Abrahams, *Meddelelser af mit Liv*, Copenhagen 1876, page 75 f

³ <http://www2.statsbiblioteket.dk/mediastream/avis/list>

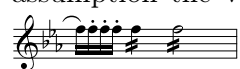
⁴ *Scena*: a vocal composition consisting of recitatives, arias, ensembles etc., either from various operas and singspiele or composed as such like those by Gerson. Scenas are frequently found in early 19th century concert programmes.

⁵ In his thematical catalogue (“Verzeichniss über Zwei Hundert meiner Compositionen”) Gerson describes his unsuccessful attempts to get the overture printed in order to leave anonymity and present himself to the public as a composer.

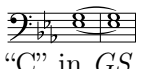
⁶ *Allgemeine Musikalische Zeitung*, Vol. 23, No. 25, 1821, page 434–435. Editor’s translation from German. Andreas Romberg (1767–1821), a cousin of Bernhard Romberg, taught Gerson composition during his stay in Hamburg 1807–1812. The anonymous correspondent on musical life in Copenhagen is most likely August Friedrich Goetze (1787–1879). See Gorm Busk, *Friedrich Kuhlau*, Copenhagen 1986, page 44. Gerson wrote a small set of solfeggi (WoO 3) for Goetze, who was among his friends.

keeping as close as possible to the original notation and an alternative, 'contemporized' score expanding the shorthand notations. Separate parts come contemporized versions as well.

With multiple sources for the overture D.147 we have the opportunity to compare shorthand notation between the sources. As a starting point the editor assumed that the distribution of 'tremolized' note values might be seen as accentuation indications.

Take as an example violin 1, bar 56 as notated in *GS*:  According to the above mentioned assumption the violinists should accentuate beat 1 and 3. However, in *MA* and *OB* the bar is notated:  suggesting accentuations on beat 1, 2 and 3. As remarked above we have no exact dating of *MA* and *OB*, but since the score- and part copies origin from the archive of "Musikforeningen" founded 1836, few decades after the composition of G.147, the editor tends to see tremolo shorthand notation from the period reflecting some arbitrariness rather than a performance practice.

Articulation marks and phrasing slurs in this edition are, as a rule, based on *GS*. Slur starting- and ending-positions may be ambiguous and hence may differ from those in *MA* and *OB*. Where articulation marks and phrasing slurs are missing in *GS* but are found in *MA* and *OB* the editor has added them in case of analogy with similar motives elsewhere in the overture. "Solo" marks are mostly based on *MA* and *OB*. Performance indications added by the editor are enclosed within brackets.

Bar No.	Part	Note No.	Comment
2	Vla	1	In <i>GS</i> later(?) additional ♭ chord "f b♭" along with 
9	Cl1-2	1	Slur in <i>MA</i> .
13	Ob2	1	No dynamics mark in <i>MA</i> .
14	Trp1-2	1	No performance indication "tenuto" in <i>GS</i> .
16	VI2	1	Dynamics mark in preceding bar in <i>MA</i> .
36	VI2	1	No marcato mark in <i>MA</i> .
47-49	Fl,Ob 1-2, VI2-Cb		Staccato dots in <i>MA</i> .
47	Fg1-2	3	No slur in <i>GS</i> .
49	Fg2	3	No slur in <i>GS</i> .
52	Cr2	1	High "eb" in <i>MA</i> .
53-56	Cl1		 in <i>MA</i> .
54	Cr,Trp,Tim		No dynamics mark in <i>GS</i> .
56	VI1		 in <i>MA</i> .
79	VI1-Cb	1	No dynamics marks in <i>MA</i> .
83	Ob1-2	2-4	No staccato dots in <i>MA</i> .
84-86	Fl1		 in <i>MA</i> and <i>OB</i> .
85-86	VI1		 in <i>MA</i> .
86	Cr2, Trp1-2	1	No dynamics mark in <i>GS</i> .
87	Trb	3	Slur in <i>OB</i> .
108	Cr		No "Solo" mark in <i>GS</i> .
112	Bs		No staccato dots in <i>MA</i> .
121	Trp,Tim		No "Solo" mark in <i>GS</i> .
123	Cr		No "Solo" mark in <i>GS</i> .
124	Ob		No "Solo" mark in <i>GS</i> , dynamics mark <i>mf</i> in <i>MA</i> .
129	VI2		 in <i>MA</i> .
130	Trb	1	No dynamics mark in <i>MA</i> .
134-135	Fg1-2		 in <i>MA</i> .
136	Vla	3	"C" in <i>GS</i> and <i>OB</i> , "Eb" in <i>MA</i> .
136	Bs	1	Tie in <i>MA</i> .

<i>Bar No.</i>	<i>Part</i>	<i>Note No.</i>	<i>Comment</i>
145	Vl2	1	No dynamics mark in <i>MA</i> .
156	Vl2	7	Slur in <i>MA</i> .
156–158	Fl,Ob 1–2	5–7	No staccato dots in <i>GS</i> .
	Vl1–Vla		
157,158	Cr1–2	3	No tie in <i>GS</i> .
164–165	Cl1–2		Slurs like in Fg in <i>MA</i> .
181,183	Vl1–Vla	3	No marcato mark in <i>MA</i> .
186	Bs	1–4	No slur in <i>GS</i> .
187	Vl1	2	“g” in <i>MA</i> .
190	Vl2–Vla	3	No slur in <i>GS</i> .
195	Bs	2	Dynamics mark <i>rf</i> in <i>MA</i> .
196	Vl2,Vla		 in <i>MA</i> .
199	Vl1	7–8	“g” in <i>MA</i> .
207	Ob1–2	2	No dynamics mark in <i>MA</i> .
208	Fg	6	No acc. ♯ in <i>GS</i> .
221,225	Vl1,Vl2	1	No marcato mark and no slur in <i>MA</i> .
223	Ob1	1	No dynamics mark in <i>MA</i> .
223–224	Fl1		 in <i>MA</i> .
224	Vl1	1	“c” in <i>MA</i> , correction to “a” in <i>GS</i> .
230–231	Ob2		 in <i>MA</i> .
230–231	Cl2		 in <i>MA</i> .