

PETER WARE

Elegie und Totentanz

Piano

Urtext



Acoma Company

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NOTES

Commissioned by the Markham Music Festival for their 1997 Festival Competition and Gala Concert, *Elegie und Totentanz* was premiered on May 17, 1997 at the Gala Concert. The *Elegie* is a reflection on life immediately before death. The texture is sparse and at times monophonic, imparting a sacred and timeless quality similar to Gregorian chant. The *Totentanz* is a death dance. It is the dance of the body after death and is the last play of the muscles. In triple meter, the *Totentanz* is spun out of a perky repeated-note motive which pervades the piece. A motor rhythm sustains the energy until its majestic ending.

Accidentals only apply to the octave in which they are written. **Bar lines** cancel all accidentals except for tied notes. **Groups of Grace Notes** are played before the beat if possible, unless there is a line indicating that they start with the bass. A **single grace note** is played on the beat except for **tied grace notes** which occur before. **Staccati grace notes groups** should be played staccatissimo. All grace notes should be played fast, while retaining tonal clarity.

The **Pedal** may be used to enhance the sound, while always retaining clarity and playfulness. In sections where the pedal is indicated to be held down, variation in pedal depth may be used. Listen carefully to avoiding any abrupt or premature termination of rich sonorities sustaining from the preceding bars. **Staccato** is shown in two ways: by a **dot**, indicating a short staccato or by a **wedge**, indicating a heavier staccato. In the *Totentanz*, the **slurred staccati** are to be short and playful.

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"Peter Ware is a composer of distinction and imagination.

His compositions portray a strong, vivid and personal character." ---Krzysztof Penderecki

PETER WARE (May 4, 1951), has fashioned a melodic and harmonic vocabulary both distinctive and attractive, moving forward in a flowing contrapuntal style. His early works of the 1970's are in an expressionistic language. In the orchestra work, *TSANKAWI*, the composer moves toward a lyric melodic style. During this period, his music was inspired by North American landscapes and often described as "painting in sound". *PISCATAWAY* for piano, is rooted in the environment around the Piscataway river in Virginia and suggests the motion of the river's current. *KUSAWA* for orchestra was inspired by a glacier lake in the Yukon. In the 1980's, Ware's compositions grew increasingly romantic in character, often utilizing traditional devices and techniques, such as the fugato and canons of *ANCIENT EVENINGS* for orchestra.

Ware's early musical training was in the church choir and under the piano tutelage of Florence Robertson in Beethoven's lineage. He studied composition at Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Cincinnati and Yale University. His principal teachers include Krzysztof Penderecki, Scott Huston, Roman Haubenstock-Ramati and Toru Takemitsu.

While many composers claim inspiration from the works and spirit of Beethoven, Ware's orchestra music is large in gesture with the heroic always surfacing and a sense of undeniable majesty. It communicates the universal awe, a speechlessness that can only be captured in the language of tone. In the end, the process is clearly recognizable as an extremely personal testimonial: the individual artist struggling for context in the world, and through the workings out of their art, championing and empowering themselves with spirit transcending.

Peter Ware attracts numerous commissions. A commission grant winner from the Canada Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council, he is a member of the Canadian League of Composers and an Associate Composer of the Canadian Music Centre. Information on the composer, and a catalogue of his works and recordings may be obtained at his web site <http://www.PeterWare.com>

Totentanz

Allegro scherzando

ff

mf < ff

ff

< f

8ba - 4 v

6

fp

f p

f p

f

mp cresc.

f

ff

mf

1/5 mp

18

8va

312

riten.

a tempo

f

mp

dim.

pp

cresc.

mf

23

8va

p

mf

cresc.

Red.

4
28

f *mf* *mpff*

* *Red.*

33

f

* *Red.*

38

p

dolce

42

cresc. *ff* *p*

8va

47

cresc. *f* *f*

"Ware's pungent, poignant **Nakina** suite." -Los Angeles Times

"Romantic, lyrical and impressionistic all at once, the pieces have a beautiful natural pianism" -Hamilton Spectator

"Ware offers melodic content that is quite strong, **Totentanz** a fascinating score with a motoric rhythm that drives the work forward."
-Fanfare

"Ware's style, inspired by North America's landscape and Indian heritage, has been described as 'paintings in sound.' **Chama** is exactly that. It evoked exotic imagery which produced a blend both surreal and dramatic." - Kitchener Waterloo Record

"Night Rainbow finds the piano glistening as the clarinet and viola intone mysterious chants. Time is virtually suspended in Ware's pieces, which are mesmerizing in effect." -Akron Beacon Journal

"**Chama** began with a long lustrous flute solo, gradually growing more knotty." - New York Times

Chama "the Eagle and the Plumed Serpent" "Played properly this music will dazzle an audience and thrill the players." -Soundboard

"It's (Chama "the Eagle and the Plumed Serpent) slow unfolding course, in predominantly long violin phrases, has a cobra-like power to hypnotize." - Classical Guitar

"The Night Rainbow, a tremendously appealing work for clarinet, viola and piano..." -Richmond News Leader

PETER WARE: MUSIC FOR PIANO

CHAMA "The Eagle and the Plumed Serpent" Violin or Flute and Piano 14' Peter Ware

This evocative work was inspired by the writings of Carlos Castaneda. In a variation form, it opens and closes with an extensive solo (vln/fl.) of meditative character. Exotic scales along with portamento convey a primitive, near eastern quality. Score & Part Violin and Piano AE314 \$15.98

ELEGIE UND TOTENTANZ Piano 9' Peter Ware

The Elegie, shifting between monophonic and polyphonic two part dialog, imparts a sacred quality similar to Gregorian chant. Accompaniment chords serve as quiet answers to the phrases. The Totentanz is a dance of the body after death and is the last play of the muscles. In moderate triple meter, Totentanz features staccato articulations that give it a perky and playful character. Opening with a rhythmic motive of four eighth notes, this motive is subsequently marked with an embellished grace note, and spun out in a Baroque fashion. This "single affection" pervades the entire fabric. Use of a motor rhythm sustains a great sense of momentum, until the ending where it winds down majestically. 6 p. AEO429 \$6.98

THE HIBISCUS ON THE WATER Piano 6' Peter Ware

Inspired by the delicate flowers that grow so plentifully along the riverbanks of the Piscataway creek in Virginia as illustrated by the poem Hibiscus by Piscataway by Agnes Ware. This fantasy variation flows simply and unpretentiously with a lyrical melody and undulating accompaniment. The Hibiscus on the Water is published in the Conservatory of Canada's New Millennium Series. It is part of the grade nine piano requirements and is published in the Grade Nine New Millennium Piano Series by Waterloo Music. Score 5 p. AEG91 \$5.98

PISCATAWAY "On Looking Deeper into the Water" Piano solo 12' Peter Ware

Utilizing the extreme ranges of the piano in a virtuoso display, this piece is named after the Piscataway river in Virginia. Colourful flourishes contrast with long-breathed melodies; and although metered, the rhythm is perceived as free, symbolic of the river's rapid current and still eddies. As numerous sustained trills and tremolos shimmer on, dynamic balance and endurance are essential. Score 15 p. AE284 \$15.98

THE NIGHT RAINBOW Clarinet, Viola and Piano 11' Peter Ware

A Fantasy-Variation, this piece was inspired by the moonbow at Cumberland Falls in Kentucky. Enchanting melodies of the clarinet and viola weave a texture of atmospheric awe, deliberate and unhurried. The piano, frozen in its higher register, contrasts with a crystallized tone, creating a sense of starkness and desolation. 10 p. Score & Parts AE713 \$14.98

LONDON STRING TRIO Violin, Cello and Piano 22' Peter Ware

The first movement uses multiple tempos and opens with a violin and piano duet. When the cello enters, much dialogue and jest ensues. The harmonic and melodic material is derived from the symmetrical chords of the violin and piano duet. This material is transformed and developed, at times humorously, throughout the movement. The second movement is an Elegy, with plaintive sigh motives, tremolos and grace notes to nothing. It is fluid and unhurried, weaving pure lyric poetry. The Totentanz follows with the cello starting the playful and sinister dance of death. The trio closes with a dramatic and driving finale. 47 p. score Violin, Cello and Piano AE381 \$47.98

Visit Acoma Company's website to listen to MP3 excerpts from CDs and view sample scores. <http://ACOMA-Co.com>

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