

Peter Knell

American Overture

for orchestra

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

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American Overture

3 Flutes (3rd doubling Piccolo)

2 Oboes

English Horn

2 Clarinets

Bass Clarinet

2 Bassoons

4 Horns

3 Trumpets in C

3 Trombones

Tuba

Timpani

3 Percussion

Strings

Duration: ca. 6 minutes

Peter Knell

www.peterknell.com

Biography

Praised for being “gratefully idiomatic” (*Los Angeles Times*) and for its “subtle virtuosity” (*MusicWeb International*), Peter’s music is meticulously crafted for both instruments and voices, making full use of their expressive and coloristic potential. He is deeply invested in musical structure as a crucible to intensify the affective experience of the listener, and he has consistently been rewarded by the enthusiastic reception of his work by audiences and performers.

Peter’s music has received awards in numerous national and international competitions, including First Prizes in the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's 10th New Music Festival International Composers Competition, the Indiana State University Contemporary Music Festival/Louisville Orchestra Prize, and the Omaha Symphony Guild International New Music Competition, as well as Second Prizes in the Fourth International Witold Lutoslawski Composers Competition, the First International Composers' Competition "In Memoriam Zoltán Kodály", and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra's Young Composers Competition. Peter was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, a BMI Student Composer Award, two ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composers Awards, grants from the Paloheimo Foundation and Meet the Composer, and commissions from the Fromm Music Foundation/Ying Quartet, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Barlow Endowment for Music Composition, Utah Arts Festival, Lyris Quartet, Oakland East Bay Symphony, and Dale Warland Singers, among others.

Peter’s music has been performed by ensembles such as the Hungarian Radio Orchestra, Louisville Orchestra, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, Filharmonia de Stat “Transilvania”, the Winnipeg, Omaha, Richmond, Memphis, and Oakland East Bay Symphony Orchestras, the Doric String Quartet, Ying Quartet, Lyris Quartet, Onyx String Quartet, Verdi Quartet, Jacaranda, Southwest Chamber Music, Volti Chamber Chorus, counter)induction, by soloists including James Dunham, Martin Chalifour, Peabody Southwell, Vijay Gupta, Markus Pawlick, and Ingeborg Danz, and at numerous music festivals. It has been broadcast in Russia, Canada, Hungary and Finland, as well as in several American cities. His orchestral work *LINES/ANGLES* was the American selection for the ISCM World Music Days 2009 and was performed in September 2009 by the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra.

Peter’s solo violin work *Seven Last Words*, based on paintings of German artist Rolf Stein, is available in a book/CD format from Valve-Hearts, Cologne. A CD featuring his orchestral work, “...the weakening eye of day” in a live performance by the Budapest Symphony Orchestra is available on the Artisjus label, a CD featuring German pianist Susanne Kessel performing two of his *Four Snapshots* is available on OehmsClassics, a CD of Peter’s complete piano music performed by German pianist Markus Pawlik was released by Sono Luminus in 2013, and a CD of the Lyris Quartet performing his *Intimate Voices* was released in the summer of 2016 on the ARS Produktion label. A new CD featuring his *Canciones de Agua*, *String Quartet No. 2* and *Seven Last Words* is planned for released in early 2022.

Peter holds degrees from Princeton University (BA), the Juilliard School (MM), and the University of Texas at Austin (DMA), and he was a Fulbright Fellow at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. His principal composition teachers have included Dan Welcher, Donald Grantham, and David Diamond. He is currently based in Los Angeles.

Program Note

American Overture is an orchestral overture that reflects my American roots in its references to Rock and jazz. The music is relentlessly kinetic; from the opening bars, it has a drive that is not sated until the final chord. *American Overture* was first performed on November 7, 2004, by the Filharmonica de Stat "Transilvania", conducted by Rachael Worby.

American Overture

Peter Knell (2000)

1 With Intensity ♩ = 60

The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes the woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The second system includes the strings. The woodwinds (Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bass Clarinet, Bassoons) play a melodic line starting in 3/4 time, marked *ff*. The brass (Horns, Trumpets, Trombones) provides harmonic support with chords and rhythmic patterns, also marked *ff*. The percussion includes 3 suspended cymbals, tam-tam, and bass drum. The strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) play a pizzicato accompaniment, marked *ff*. The score is in 4/4 time and contains various musical notations such as dynamics, articulation marks, and time signatures.

5

Fl. 1, 2
Fl. 3/Picc.
Ob. 1, 2
E.H.
Cl. 1, 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hm. 1, 3
Hm. 2, 4
Tpts.
Tbn. 1, 2
Tbn. 3/Tba.
Timp.
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Vcl.
DB

ff *f* *mf* *mp* *f* *ff* *mp* *f* *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp* *mp* *mp* *ff* *ff* *mp* *mp* *ff* *ff* *mp* *p* *ff* *ff*

8

E.H.

Cl. 1, 2

B.Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

11 rit. Faster ♩ = 96

Fl. 1, 2
Fl. 3/Picc.
Ob. 1, 2
E.H.
Cl. 1, 2
B.-Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Hrn. 1, 3
Hrn. 2, 4
Tpts.
Tbn. 1, 2
Tbn. 3/Tba.
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3

11 rit. Faster ♩ = 96

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.

15

Hm. 1, 3

Hm. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

mf

p < f

p

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

glockenspiel

1.

15

SAMPLE



19

Hm. 1, 3

Tpt. 1

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

23

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Tpt. 1

Perc. 1

Vla.

Vcl.

f

p

harmon mute(s)

1.

pp

ff

pp

ff

sfp

sfp

f

at the tip

sfp

pp

p

p

sfp

pp

p

soli

p

sfpp

p

sfpp

pp

sfpp

pp

f

pp

mf

pp

mp

p

pp

mp

pp

mf

pp



28

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Perc. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

pp

f

pp

pp

pp

f

pp

p dolce

p dolce

p

ord.

arco

p dolce

p dolce

a2

a2

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

33

Fl. 1, 2

Fl. 3/Picc.

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

f *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp* *mf* *f* *ff*

a2 *tr* *piccolo* *stopped* *straight mute(s)* *snare drum*

Detailed description of the musical score: This page contains the musical score for measures 33 through 36. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes woodwinds (Flutes 1, 2, 3/Piccolo; Oboes 1, 2; Clarinets 1, 2; Bassoons 1, 2), brass (Horns 1, 3; Horns 2, 4; Trumpets; Trombones 1, 2; Trombone 3/Euphonium), and percussion (Timpani; Snare Drum). The second system includes strings (Violins I and II; Viola; Violoncello; Double Bass). The music is in 3/4 time and features various dynamics such as *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. There are also performance markings like *a2*, *tr*, *piccolo*, *stopped*, and *straight mute(s)*. The score includes complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs.

L'istesso tempo

37

Fl. 1, 2 *mp*

Fl. 3/Picc. *mp* solo *p sultry*

Ob. 1, 2 *mf*

E.H. *mf*

Cl. 1, 2 *mp*

B.Cl. solo *p sultry*

Bsn. 1, 2 *mf*

Hrn. 1, 3 *f*

Hrn. 2, 4 *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *ff*

Tbn. 3/Tba. *ff*

Timp.

Perc. 2 3 suspended cymbals *mf*

Perc. 3 tam-tam *f*

L'istesso tempo

37

Vln. I *mp* *pp div.* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp*

Vln. II *mf* *pp div.* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz*

Vla. *f* *p* *div.* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp*

Vcl. *ff* *mp* *only half* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp sfz* *pp*

DB *mf*

42

Fl. 3/Picc. *mp* *pp* *mf*

Ob. 1, 2 *p sultry*

B.Cl. *mp* *pp* *mf*

Bsn. 1, 2 *p sultry*

42

Vln. I *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Vln. I div. *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Vln. II *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Vln. II div. *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Vla. *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Vla. div. *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Vcl. *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*



47

Ob. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Tpts.

Vln. I

Vln. I div.

Vln. II div.

Vla.

Vla. div.

Vcl.

Vcl. div.

51

Ob. 1, 2
mf *pp* *f*

Bsn. 1, 2
mf *pp* *f*

Tpts.
sfp

Vln. I
pp *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *p*

Vln. I div.

Vln. II
sfz *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *mp*

Vln. II div.

Vla.
pp *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *mp*

Vla. div.

Vcl.
pp *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *mp*

Vcl. div.

DB
pp *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *mf*

54

Fl. 1, 2 *f* a2 3 *tr*

Fl. 3/Picc. *f* piccolo 6

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2 *f* a2 6 6 6 6 7

B-Cl. *f* 6 6 6 *tr* 7

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbn. *f* 7

Hrn. 1, 3 stopped *f*

Hrn. 2, 4 stopped *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 a2 open *f*

Tbn. 3/Tba. bass trombone *mf* *f*

Timp. *pp* *f*

Perc. 1 snare drum *f*

Perc. 2 3 suspended cymbals *mf*

54

Vln. I *sfpp* *f* unis.

Vln. I div *sfpp*

Vln. II *sfpp* *f* unis.

Vln. II div *sfpp*

Vla. *sfpp* *f* pizz.

Vla. div. *sfpp*

Vcl. *sfpp* *f* unis.

Vcl. div. *sfpp* unis.

57

B.Cl. *mp*

Bsn. 1, 2 *mp*

Cbn. *mp*

Hrn. 1, 3 *sfp*

Hrn. 2, 4 *sfp*

Tbn. 1, 2 *sfp*

Tbn. 3/Tba. *sfp*

Perc. 1 *pp* *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

57

Vln. I *sfp* *spicc.* *sim.* *cresc.*

Vln. II *sfp* *spicc.* *sim.* *cresc.*

Vla. *sfz*

Vcl. *div. a3* *sfp*

DB *sfp*

61

B.Cl. *cresc.* *f*

Bsn. 1, 2 *(a2)* *cresc.* *f*

Cbn. *cresc.* *f*

61

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

65

sempre stacc.

f *mf*

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

B.Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbn.

Tpt. 1

Tbn. 3/Tba.

open solo

tuba solo

f

65

Vln. I

Vln. II

69

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

B.Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbn.

Tpt. 1

Tbn. 3/Tba.

72

Fl. 1, 2
 Fl. 3/Picc.
 Ob. 1, 2
 Cl. 1, 2
 B.-Cl.
 Bsn. 1, 2
 Cbn.

ff
 flute
 ff
 ff
 ff
 ff
 ff

Hrn. 1, 3
 Hrn. 2, 4
 Tpt. 1
 Tpt. 2
 Tpt. 3
 Tbn. 1, 2
 Tbn. 3/Tba.
 Timp.

open
 open
 ff
 ff
 ff
 ff
 ff
 ff
 tr
 pp

72

Vln. I
 Vln. II
 Vla.
 Vcl.

ff
 ff
 unis.
 arco
 ff
 unis.
 ff

75

Fl. 1, 2

Fl. 3/Picc.

Ob. 1, 2

E.H.

Cl. 1, 2

B-Cl.

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

fff (*sempre*)

piccolo

ff

pp

suspended cymbal

glockenspiel

bass drum, with snare sticks

tr

play notes as fast as possible

1.

2.

3.

17

79

Fl. 1, 2

Fl. 3/Picc.

Ob. 1, 2

E.H.

Cl. 1, 2

B-Cl.

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

79

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

This musical score page contains measures 79 through 82. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes woodwinds (Flutes 1, 2 and 3/Piccobello; Oboes 1, 2; English Horn; Clarinets 1, 2; Bass Clarinet), brass (Horns 1, 3 and 2, 4; Trumpets; Trombones 1, 2 and 3/Tuba), and percussion (Tympani, Percussion 1, 2, and 3). The second system includes strings (Violins I and II; Viola; Violoncello) and Double Bass. The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex rhythmic pattern with frequent rests and dynamic markings. A large watermark is visible across the page.

82

Fl. 1, 2

Fl. 3/Picc.

Ob. 1, 2

E.H.

Cl. 1, 2

B.Cl.

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

82

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

This image shows a page of a musical score, page 82, for an orchestra. The score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Flutes 1 and 2, Flute 3/Piccolo, Oboes 1 and 2, English Horn, Clarinets 1 and 2, and Bass Clarinet. The brass section includes Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, Trumpets, Trombones 1 and 2, Trombone 3/Tuba, and Timpani. The percussion section includes Percussion 1, Percussion 2, and Percussion 3. The string section includes Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score is in 4/4 time and features complex rhythmic patterns and dynamics. A large watermark is visible across the page.

85

Fl. 1, 2

Fl. 3/Picc.

Ob. 1, 2

E.H.

Cl. 1, 2

B-Cl.

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

20

This page of a musical score covers measures 85, 86, and 87. The woodwind section includes Flutes 1 and 2, Flute 3/Piccolo, Oboes 1 and 2, English Horn, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bass Clarinet, Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, Trumpets, and Trombones 1, 2, and 3/Tuba. The brass section includes Trombones 1, 2, and 3/Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, and Percussion 3. The string section includes Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and various articulations such as accents and trills. A large watermark is visible across the page.

accel. Forcefully ♩ = 120

88

Fl. 1, 2
Fl. 3/Picc.
Ob. 1, 2
E.H.
Cl. 1, 2
B-Cl.

Hrn. 1, 3
Hrn. 2, 4
Tpts.
Tbn. 1, 2
Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3

fff
pp
fff
fff
fff

fff
fff
fff
fff

88 *accel.* Forcefully ♩ = 120

Vln. I
Vln. II

ff marcato
ff marcato

91

snare drum

Perc. I

pp \rightarrow *f*

91

Vln. I

sfp

Vln. II

sfp

Vla.

sfp

Vcl.

sfp

DB

ff marcato

sfp



95

Fl. 1, 2

a2

ff marcato

flute

Fl. 3/Picc.

ff marcato

Ob. 1, 2

a2

ff marcato

Cl. 1, 2

a2

ff marcato

B.-Cl.

a2

Bsn. 1, 2

95

Vln. I

ff marcato

Vln. II

ff marcato

Vla.

ff marcato

Vcl.

ff marcato

98

Fl. 1, 2

Fl. 3/Picc.

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

B.Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbn.

Timp.

98

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

ff marcato

tr

ff

101

B-CI.

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbn.

Timp.

Perc. 2

101

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB.

suspended cymbal *tr*

pp

104

E.H.

Cl. 1, 2

B.Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbn.

Hrn. 1, 3

Hrn. 2, 4

Tpts.

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3/Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

bass drum

ff

sf

mf

104

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

DB

ff

mf

1, 2

picc.

1, 2

E.H.

1, 2

-Cl.

1, 2

Cbn.

c. 1

suspended cymbal

c. 3

26

tr

p

ff

1, 2
 Picc.
 1, 2
 E.H.
 1, 2
 -Cl.
 1, 2
 Cbn.

flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue
 flutter-tongue

ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff

a2
 a2
 a2
 a2
 a2
 a2
 a2
 a2
 a2
 a2

5
 5
 5
 5
 5
 5
 5
 5
 5
 5

4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4

1, 3
 2, 4
 pt. 1
 pt. 2

a2
 a2
 a2
 a2

fff
fff
fff
fff

27

4/4
 4/4
 4/4
 4/4

1, 2

picc.

1, 2

E.H.

1, 2

-Cl.

1, 2

-Cb.

1, 3

2, 4

ot. 1

ot. 2