

"Ice Music"

During the late 1980's the composer's daughter, Marie-Christina, was doing well as a teen-age figure-skater - including success in competitions as far away as Texas, USA. To commemorate this I wrote "Ice Music" for her. It was never ultimately skated to - partially because organ music at a skating rink was an impossibility "live" and perhaps also too far from removed the normal musical tastes of the rink ...

... be that as it may ...

As an organ work it has had favourable reception played by various organists on organ recital programs internationally and is included here for whatever beauty it may have in the ears of its beholders or for those who wish to learn and perform it. It is a little tongue-in-cheek, for example the corrupted theatre organ style and "whistling" effect of its 2' stop as right-hand solo in the second section. This theme is then converted into augmentation and used as a pedal motive under French Toccata manual figuration at the end. Ideally the use of a Werckmeister III-tempered organ will suit best: this allows tension and relaxation through modulation, and it finishes on a gloriously-pure C-major chord.

A hidden agenda for the whole concept of this piece is a "theatre of the absurd" notion, in this case a dance of seemingly disparate, conflicting elements. It seems at first "absurd" that a hot-climate Australian should excel at ice skating. There are the further absurdities of whistling and 5/8 time vamp-basses on a "church" organ as well as the presence of organ music in an ice-rink situation. It is probably also absurd to conclude with a French Toccata in Werckmeister tempering.

Yet if all this leads to enjoyment through amusement mingled with the tension of it all being serious in spite of everything, then the piece has succeeded. It was eventually choreographed and danced to in Laufen (Switzerland) by the "Blauring" Group of the Herz Jesu Kirche at a 70th birthday-eve celebration concert there on 29th March 2009.