



Brooke Joyce

Into the Trees

for organ and pre-recorded environmental sounds

toydogmusic



Into the Trees

Fern-shadows, and the tall magnolia flowers
Drenching the air with perfume and with light,
This is the chosen, the appointed night
The shining instant in your Book of Hours.

You stand a moment listening to the bees
Recite some ancient rune, some ageless charm,
Then, light bow swinging, fiddle under arm
You walk into the silence of the trees.

– Ruth Gilbert

Gilbert, Florence Ruth. 1966. *The Luthier: Poems by Ruth Gilbert*. Wellington N.Z.: A.H. & A.W. Reed. Used by permission of the author's daughter.

Into the Trees begins with the recorded sounds of a woodland at dawn, and then invites listeners to reflect on the sounds of the organ that are made possible with the wood that is harvested from such landscapes. The middle section of the piece features sounds from the same woodland location at midday; the final section features the sounds of nightfall. All recordings were made in Winneshiek County, Iowa in June 2023. This work was commissioned by the American Guild of Organists in 2022.

Registration: Throughout the piece, prioritize ranks of wooden pipes, but feel free to use whatever resources you feel best amplify the musical textures. Use divisions of 16', 8', 4', 2', mixture and mutation stops as desired. MM. 43-80 feature a 4' solo voice in the pedals.

Coordination with pre-recorded sounds: There are two ways to incorporate the pre-recorded environmental sounds into the piece:

- 1) Playback of a single sound file (through a laptop or phone) that sounds continuously throughout the performance. In this scenario, begin the performance by starting the sound file, then use the timings marked in the score as guides as to where the organ music should align with the recording (no timings need to be coordinated exactly). Contact the composer [brookejoyce.com/about/contact/] for the sound file.
- 2) Playback using an interactive website on your phone or laptop that allows you more flexibility. In this scenario, start the performance by clicking on A on the website. Click on B, C, and STOP at the places indicated in the score. Contact the composer [brookejoyce.com/about/contact/] for a link and instructions.

Placement of speakers and balance: Depending on the performance space, it may be advantageous to have the environmental sounds surround the audience, or it may be better to have the sounds emanate from the area closest to the instrument. The audio is mono, so there is no need to consider panning between L and R channels. Ideally, the environmental sounds are always audible, though they might, at times, be eclipsed by the organ sounds (and vice versa). Once the audio level is set at the start of the performance, it should not need to be altered.

Please inform the composer of all performances, [brookejoyce.com/about/contact/]

Into the Trees

Commissioned by the American Guild of Organists for the 2024 AGO/Marilyn Mason Award in Organ Composition

Brooke Joyce (2023)

A (start recording,
or click on A)

[0:00]

[0:21]*

Measures 1-6 of the organ piece. The score is written for three staves. The first two staves are grand staves (treble and bass clef). The third staff is a single bass clef. A 21" measurement bar is shown above the third staff, indicating a 21-second duration. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 60. The first measure is marked with a fermata. The second measure is marked with a fermata. The third measure is marked with a fermata. The fourth measure is marked with a fermata. The fifth measure is marked with a fermata. The sixth measure is marked with a fermata. The piece begins with a *p* (piano) dynamic.

6

[0:42]

Measures 7-11 of the organ piece. The score is written for three staves. The first two staves are grand staves (treble and bass clef). The third staff is a single bass clef. The piece continues with a *sim.* (sostenuto) dynamic.

12

Measures 12-15 of the organ piece. The score is written for three staves. The first two staves are grand staves (treble and bass clef). The third staff is a single bass clef.

16

[1:03]

as fast and short as possible, jittery

Measures 16-20 of the organ piece. The score is written for three staves. The first two staves are grand staves (treble and bass clef). The third staff is a single bass clef. An annotation "improvise in like manner, same notes and hand position" is placed between measures 16 and 17. The piece continues with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic.

20

Measures 21-24 of the organ piece. The score is written for three staves. The first two staves are grand staves (treble and bass clef). The third staff is a single bass clef. A long horizontal arrow is placed above the staves, indicating a sustained or improvisatory section.

* if using app, timings are
only approximate and do not
need to be followed

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gradually move hands up 1 octave, LH and RH use respective pitch sets

22

23

[1:24]

23

24

25

26

gradually move hands up 1 octave, LH and RH use respective pitch sets

27

28

[1:45]

Measures 30-32 of the piece. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes with accidentals (F#, G#, A#, B#) and rests. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B). A large black arrow points to the right, indicating the continuation of the piece.

30

Measure 30. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B) with a slur. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F#, G#, A#, B#) with a slur. The dynamic marking *mf* is present.

mf

Measures 31-32. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes with accidentals (F#, G#, A#, B#) and rests. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B). A large black arrow points to the right, indicating the continuation of the piece.

33

Measure 33. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B) with a slur. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F#, G#, A#, B#) with a slur.

Measures 34-35. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes with accidentals (F#, G#, A#, B#) and rests. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B). A large black arrow points to the right, indicating the continuation of the piece.

36

Measure 36. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B) with a slur. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F#, G#, A#, B#) with a slur.

[2:06]

decrease activity, increase durations, move hands to lowest octave

Measures 37-42. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes with accidentals (F#, G#, A#, B#) and rests. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B). A large black arrow points to the right, indicating the continuation of the piece.

37

Measure 37. The left hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F, G, A, B) with a slur. The right hand plays a sequence of eighth notes (F#, G#, A#, B#) with a slur.