

James B. Wilson

Turner's Ships

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for Piano

Turner's Ships is the second (and latest), in a slowly growing group of works inspired by JMW Turner's paintings. This work takes as its subject two pictures recently exhibited in the Tate Gallery: *The Fighting Temeraire* and *Slave Ship*. In both there is a sense of recollection, an afterglow. Each work depicts conflicting ideas of past glory and loss. Aesthetically this pair of works are particularly rich, and yet hazy, with gorgeous colour.

When writing the work I was preoccupied with the image of waves lapping against a ship's hull; a gesture representative of this opens the work. Also ideas of the ebb and flow of the sea pervade the music. Toward the end of the work these waves return but with dominant 7ths as the prevailing sonority. These sounds gradually move downward; remnants of a sinking negro spiritual. Finally the work ends, much as it began.

This work was written in celebration of The Royal Academy of Music's bicentenary and is my gift to the Academy.

Turner's Ships

Hazy, distant and with rubato.
Waves lapping a boat's hull.

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♩ = 76 poco rit. . . a tempo

Con molto ped. sempre *

P cantabile

9 poco rit. . . a tempo

Red.

17

With ebb and flow

♩ = 90

24 ♩ = 60 accel. molto rit. ♩ = 42 ♩ = 76 rit.

*Hold sustain ped. always (but lift where indicated).
1/2 Pedal occasionally, if resonance becomes overwhelming.

29 $\text{♩} = 60$ rit. $\text{♩} = 60$ accel. rit. $\text{♩} = 42$

mp
pp Ped. *p* (*p*) Ped. *mp* *pp*

34 *Delicately* $\text{♩} = 76$ accel. rit.

p *mf* *pp*

39 *a tempo* accel. rit. poco rit.

p *mp* *f* *p* (echo)

43 *Slower* $\text{♩} = 54$ poco accel. $\text{♩} = 76$ molto rit.

pp *mf* *pp* *mp*

46 $\text{♩} = 60$ accel. $\text{♩} = 76$ rit. $\text{♩} = 54$ molto rit.

mp *mp* *p* *ppp*

49 **a tempo** **accel.** **poco rit.** *8va*

mp cresc. *mf* *p* *ppp*

f *mp (echo)*

(ped.) Ped. *f* *mp (echo)*

54 **a tempo** **riten.** **a tempo** **poco rit.** **slower** **rit.** ♩ = 60 *8va*

mp *ff* *mf* *p* *pp* *ppp ghostly* *mp*

mp *f* *p (echo)* *ppp*

Ped. *mp* *f* *p (echo)* *ppp*

59 **rit.**

ppp

L.H as if from very far away

Ped. Ped. 1/2 ped.

62 **accel.** (♩ = 84) **suddenly hold back** **a tempo** **accel.** (♩ = 84) **suddenly hold back**

p *p*

L.v

Ped. Ped. 1/2 ped.

65 ♩ = 76 **molto rit.** (♩ = 48) *8va*

p cresc. *mf* *p* *pp*

Ped. Ped.

more lively $\text{♩} = 67$ **molto rit.** $(\text{♩} = 47)$

70 $\text{♩} = 60$ **poco rit.**

71 $\text{♩} = 67$ **molto rit.**

72 $\text{♩} = 47$

73 $\text{♩} = 47$

74 $\text{♩} = 47$

75 $\text{♩} = 76$ **a sinking spiritual**

76 $\text{♩} = 76$

77 $\text{♩} = 76$

78 $\text{♩} = 76$

79 $\text{♩} = 76$

80 $\text{♩} = 76$

81 $\text{♩} = 76$

82 $\text{♩} = 76$

83 $\text{♩} = 60$ **p rit.** $\text{♩} = 60$ **mp**

84 $\text{♩} = 60$

85 $\text{♩} = 60$

86 $\text{♩} = 60$

87 $\text{♩} = 60$

88 $\text{♩} = 60$

89 $\text{♩} = 60$

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99 **Riten.** $(\text{♩} = 42)$ **a tempo** **Riten.** $(\text{♩} = 42)$ **Long**

100 $\text{♩} = 42$

101 $\text{♩} = 42$

102 $\text{♩} = 42$

103 $\text{♩} = 42$

104 $\text{♩} = 42$