

ROYAL

COLLEGE

OF MUSIC

London

# PETER GELLHORN

## MOORAGH, JULY, 1940 (1940) FOR MALE CHOIR AND STRINGS

**RCM EDITIONS** 

## About RCM Editions

RCM Editions are performing editions of works. They have been created to support College performances, recordings and research. They are published to bring the works to a wider public.

## About the Peter Gellhorn Project

This edition was created as part of the AHRC-funded Cultural Engagement Project "Exile Estates – Music Restitution: The Musical Legacy of Conductor/Composer Peter Gellhorn", in collaboration with the International Centre for Suppressed Music (ICSM) and the Jewish Music Institute (JMI).

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This RCM Edition is supported by:



Arts & Humanities Research Council

We would also like to acknowledge the support of the British Library in providing access to its collection of Peter Gellhorn's papers.

## Preface

In this camp [...] one has nothing substantial to complain of except having to be here. There are several pianos, of which one will do for recitals, and I have given quite a few, alone and with string players. Since I came here I wrote a piece for male choir and strings, two studies for violin alone, and two pieces for strings without Double Bass.<sup>1</sup>

In May and June 1940, the British government introduced a policy of mass internment of 'enemy aliens' in the UK.<sup>2</sup> These included many who had fled Nazi oppression in Germany and Austria and found refuge in Britain. Many of them, including Peter Gellhorn, were sent to internment camps on the Isle of Man. There, in Mooragh Camp, Gellhorn met many fellow musicians including Hans Keller, Paul Hamburger, and Ferdinand Rauter. The latter, after his release, enlisted prominent figures including Sir George Dyson (Director of the Royal College of Music) and Ralph Vaughan-Williams to help secure the release of fellow internees.<sup>3</sup>

I had a letter from Vaughan Williams saying his committee had recommended me to the [Home Office] for release in the last week of November, and therefore the monotony of this life is not only broken, but rather shattered by the constant ups and downs of expectations which raise you to a tense pitch by about 11am, and then you drop again for the day, because by that time all the new releases have been announced.<sup>4</sup>

It is very likely that *Mooragh* is the piece for male choir and strings referred to in Gellhorn's letter. We know that he conducted a male choir in the camp, and the piece, dated August 1940, was most likely written for it. The piece can be performed by a male choir with a string orchestra or by four vocal soloists with a string quartet and (if available) a double bass.

The poem *Mooragh* by F. F. Bieber was first published in the camp newsletter, the *Mooragh Times* in August 1940 and then again in October 1940 in a collected volume of poems by internees, published under the title *Stimmen hinter Stacheldraht* [*Voices behind Barbed Wire*].<sup>5</sup>

With so many artists and intellectuals together in such a confined space it was not surprising that so much creative activity took place. Gellhorn stated that while in Mooragh internment camp he taught music, directed choirs and ensembles, and 'gave more recitals than ever in my life', as well as finding time for composition. He was eventually released on 21 January 1941.<sup>6</sup>

Dr. Terence Curran and Norbert Meyn

References:

 Gellhorn, P. (1940-1943). Letter to Priaulx Rainier, 26 November 1940. *IPR/3/27* – *letters from Hans [Peter] Gellhorn to Priaulx Rainier.* Royal Academy of Music Library. London.

- 2. Dove, R. (2014). 'Most Regrettable and Deplorable Things have Happened': Britain's Internment of Enemy Aliens in 1940. In H. Gál, *Music behind barbed wire: a diary of summer 1940* (pp. 28-40). London: Toccata Press.
- 3. Rauter, Ferdinand, "Die Gründung der Anglo-Austrian Music Society" (The foundation of the Anglo-Austrian Music Society), unpublished essay, Ferdinand Rauter Archive, Music and Migration Collection, University of Salzburg.
- Gellhorn, P. (1940-1943). Letter to Priaulx Rainier, 23 December 1940. *IPR/3/27* – *letters from Hans [Peter] Gellhorn to Priaulx Rainier*. Royal Academy of Music Library. London.
- 5. Internierten des Mooragh Camp (Ed.). (1940). *Stimmen hinter Stacheldraht* [*Voices behind Barbed Wire*]. Ramsey, Isle of Man: Mooragh Camp.
- Gellhorn, P. (2002). Interview by Geraldine Auerbach, Martin Anderson, and Betty Sagon Collick, 9 January 2002 [Video]. London: International Centre for Suppressed Music [Copy of video donated to Royal College of Music Library]. Excerpt available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch? v=8wI\_SUsla7A&feature=youtu.be

## **Editorial Statement**

A collection of Peter Gellhorn's papers, including autograph manuscripts for all of his extant compositions, was donated to the British Library on 30th April 2010 and 20th July 2011 as Music Deposit 2010/15. The official reference for the collection is now MS Mus. 1800, and a complete catalogue can be found at www.petergellhorn.com /sheet-music. Alongside sketches and drafts, the composition manuscripts include a number of autograph fair copies, written in ink, clearly notated, and with few corrections, suggesting that Gellhorn intended them to be regarded as authoritative. It has therefore been possible to make urtext editions of these works, accurately conveying Gellhorn's intentions. Some minor corrections and changes to formatting have been made so that the scores are ready for use by performers, in keeping with the ethos of the RCM Editions. On a similar basis, any specific modifications are outlined in the preface to each work, rather than using editorial brackets in the score, in order to reduce clutter on the page and to ensure easy reading. For an overarching outline of the approach to transcription, see "The Peter Gellhorn Edition: General Statement", available at www.petergellhorn.com/sheet-music and at researchonline.rcm.ac.uk/69/.

## Sources

The Gellhorn Papers contain two autograph manuscripts for *Mooragh*, catalogued under MS Mus. 1800/3/2 Vocal music; 1940-1954: a fair second bass part, and a fair score. The latter has been taken as the primary copy text, with the latter consulted to ensure consistency.

The fair score is written in black ink (with a few corrections in blue ink) on unevenly cut tracing paper with between 13 and 14 hand-drawn staves per page. The manuscript is formed from seven single-sided folios sewn together with black thread through the left-hand edge to make a fourteen-page booklet measuring 286mm by 428mm. The contents are as follows:

[i]: Title page pp.2-5: Score [ii]: Blank page

## **Specific Editorial Remarks**

In the autograph score the four voice parts are written over two staves, and the cello and double bass parts are written on a single stave. In the present edition they have been separated out into independent staves for clarity.

The following minor correction has also been made:

Measure 29: in the score, Gellhorn writes a hairpin over the entire bar above each of the string staves, while the *mezzo-piano* and *piano* markings are written below the stave. The present edition splits these hairpins into two, either side of the *piano* markings, and places them below the stave, for ease of reading.

Dr. Bruno Bower

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#### F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912–2004)



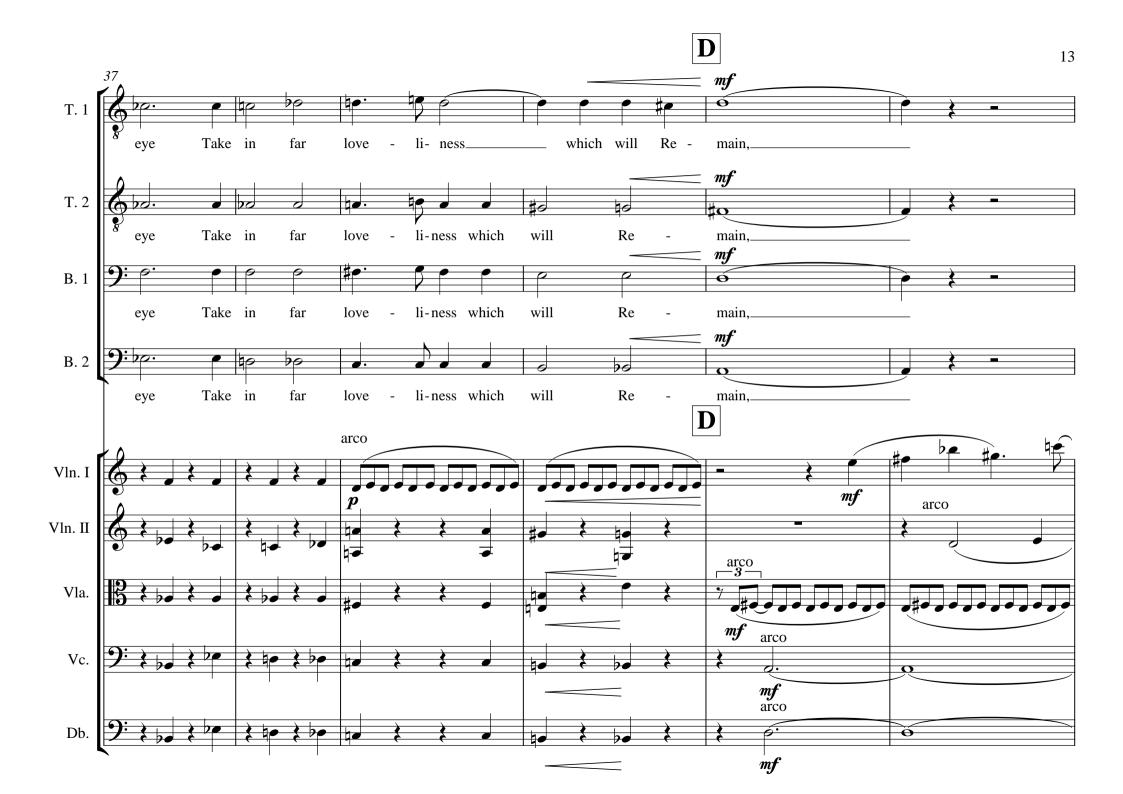
















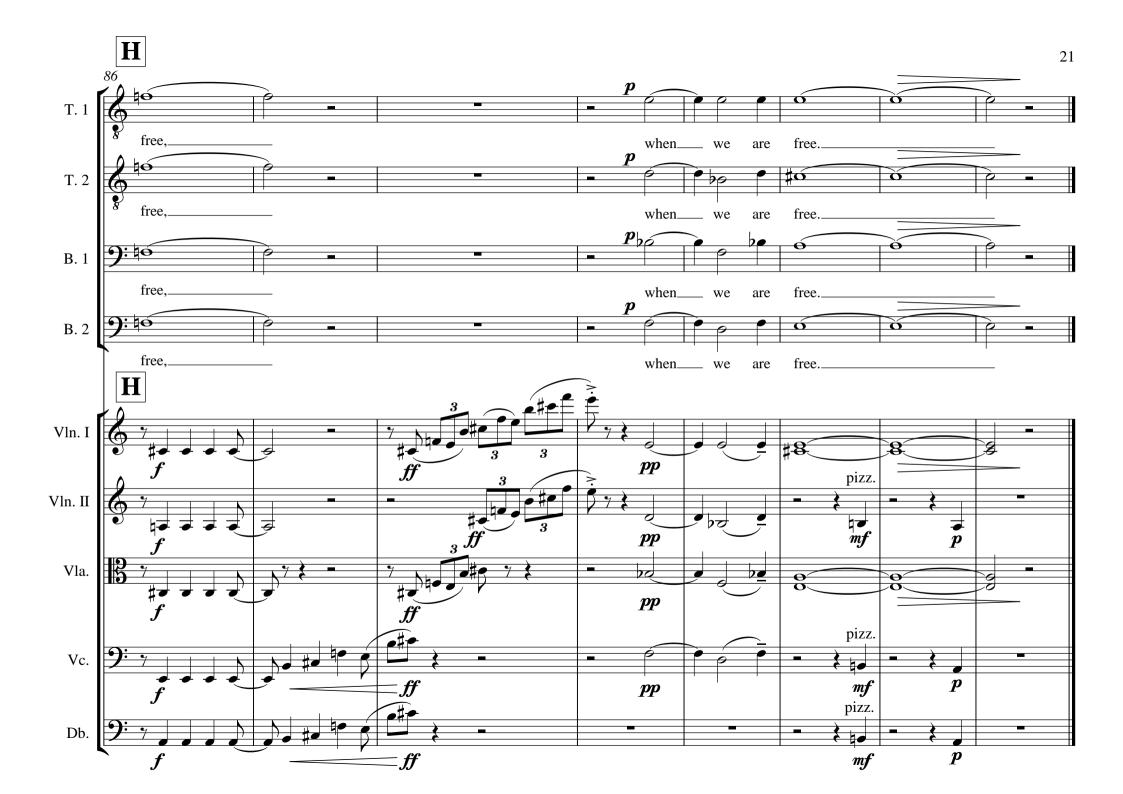












#### Tenor I Tenor II Bass I Bass II

Mooragh, July, 1940

F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912-2004)









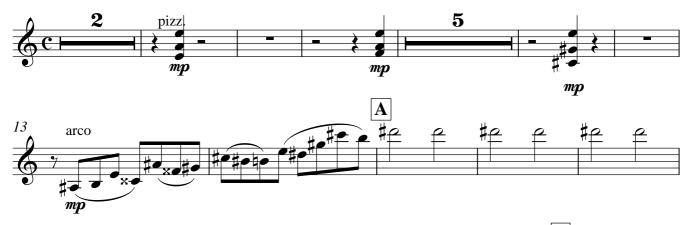
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## Violin I

Mooragh, July, 1940

#### F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912–2004)







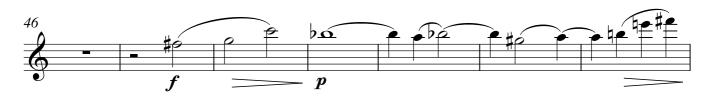








Violin I











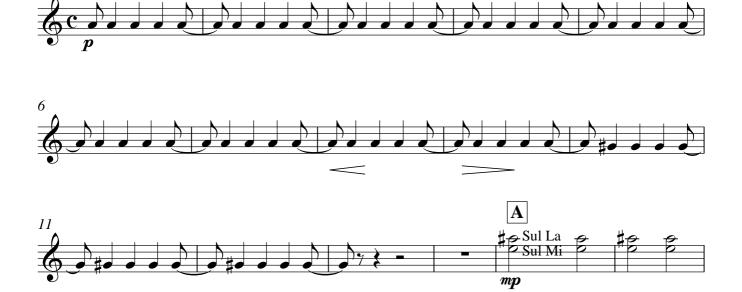






#### F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912–2004)













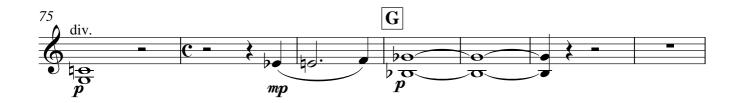
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## Viola

Mooragh, July, 1940

F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912–2004)



Viola



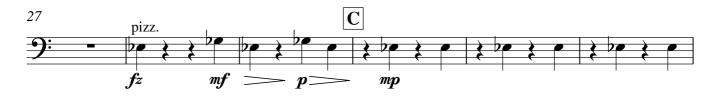
#### F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912-2004)



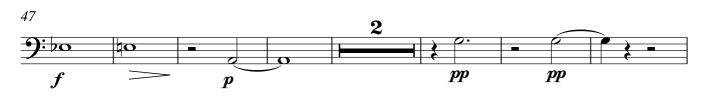










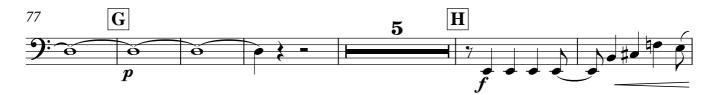














F. F Bieber (dates unknown)

Peter Gellhorn (1912–2004)



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