

Orchideæ Ordinariæ

was written in 1989 for the Südwestfunk Orchestra in Baden-Baden and first performed in Donaueschingen in October of that year. It has seven movements –

Chorale, Perigord, Hornpipe, Exsequor, Orchidée, Scorpio and Pandora -

of which the first four form an "orderly" and "well-ordered" suite à la Passacaglia, Scherzo, Andante and Rondo Finale. The subsequent movements offer a critical comment on these four and on each other.

The piece is for 86 musicians seated at 64 stands: their instruments are

4 Flutes (alternating with piccolos),

4 Oboes (one alternating with English Horn),

4 Clarinets (two alternating with E-flat and with Bass Clarinettes),

4 Bassoons (one alternating with Contrabass Bassoon),

6 French Horns,

4 Trumpets,

4 Trombones,

1 Tuba,

1 Grand Piano,

26 Violins,

10 Violas,

8 Cellos,

6 Double Basses,

1 Tympani

3 further sets of Percussion