

# 1449. No More Bolero

Backgrounds Of S. Radic

The original **"No More Bolero's"** is a hit by the Dutch pop singer **Gerard Joling** (\*1960) from the year 1989. Joling started as a catwalk model at a young age, but he also persistently pursued the goal of a singing career. He took singing lessons and searched in vain for a record company for a long time. First recordings as a singer with different groups were unsuccessful. Only in 1985 his persistence paid off. In the popular TV show Soundmixshow, his version of Don McLean's pop song Crying by Don McLean reached number 3 and became so well known that he started off with his first single: Love Is in Your Eyes put him in the top 5 of the Dutch charts, the second single Ticket to the Tropics even became a number 1 hit.

In 1988 Gerard Joling took part in the Grand Prix Eurovision for the Netherlands and although he only reached an average 9th place with his song Shangri-La, this performance helped him to make it to the international music stage. The following year his pop single No More Bolero's was released in numerous countries in Western Europe, Asia and South America. With 6 weeks at number 1 it became his biggest solo success in the Netherlands and in Germany, where he had a top 5 hit, he stayed in the charts for more than half a year. The album of the same name was also very successful, not only in his homeland, where it was awarded platinum, but also on the Asian music market. In the 1990s, despite regular releases, Gerard Joling became musically calmer. In return he became an actor and presenter. After a few smaller film and television roles, among others in Flodder - Eine Familie zum Knutschen in Manhattan, he got his own karaoke show on RTL4. Further shows followed and besides some appearances on the theater stage he was also successful with the figure skating revue Holiday on Ice in 1997.

Prague, October 2019. A week and a half after his death, the Czech Republic paid its last respects to pop star Karel Gott. With a national day of mourning and a church service in Prague's St. Vitus Cathedral, the



country took part in the Saturday goodbye to a national idol. The flags stood at half mast on all public buildings. Karel Gott's widow Ivana, his children and several thousand invited guests of honour from politics and society arrived at the Requiem in the cathedral.

Karel Gott had filled millions of his listeners with joy, at home and abroad, emphasized the Archbishop of Prague, Dominik Duka, who celebrated the Mass. "He believed in the value of what makes human life beautiful and rich," said the Cardinal. In Germany, Karel Gott became famous with hits like "Babicka", "Nie mehr Bolero" and "Biene Maja". The public could watch the funeral ceremonies on the forecourt on large screens and live on television. Finally, the voice of Karel Gott sounded in the cathedral - in a recording from 1974. At that time the singer had recorded a Czech text to the touching melody of the Gospellied "Amazing Grace".

A large black-and-white portrait was reminiscent of the native Pilsener. Soldiers of the guard battalion carried the coffin out, accompanied by the mighty blows of the Sigismund bell, which is only rung on special feast days. Behind them followed the widow Ivana and the two daughters Charlotte Ella (13) and Nelly Sofie (11).

...Never again Bolero....



Bolero, T=100

The musical score is divided into two main sections: *Main 1* and *Main 2*. The score is written for four parts: Strings, Guitar, Bass, and Drums. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked as T=100. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings. The Drums part includes specific instructions for 'Bongos middle/low', 'BD', 'Rimshot', 'small-crash', and 'middle-crash'. The Bass part includes a 'BD+SD' instruction. The Strings and Guitar parts feature complex chordal textures and melodic lines.

**Programming instruction**

The Bolero is a Spanish dance in  $\frac{3}{4}$  time, which was developed in the last third of the 18th century by dance masters from different Spanish dances. These include the Seguidillas manchegas, Fandango, Polo and Chacona. In addition, elements from ballet and courtly dances were adapted for the movement vocabulary of the legs and feet. It is usually danced by two people with castanets and traditionally accompanied by guitar, cister (a plucked instrument from the family of box-neck lutes) and other folkloric instruments such as bagpipes, drums and tambourines. The Bolero achieved world fame through the orchestral piece of the same name by Maurice Ravel. Not related to the Spanish Bolero is the Cuban Bolero, which is usually written in 2/4 or 4/4 meters. In the title "No More Bolero" mainly a Latin rhytm reminiscent of Beguine was used, which plays the leading role as Main-1 here. The Main-2 part is easily worked into the piece as a kind of "ravel's bolero part" - and is at most a "bolero effect" with regard to the melody. In the drums part, bongos are the Latin touch carriers, plus a dotted bass, with a peculiar bass-octave leading. The RIMSHOT (Snarekante), whose phrase is also taken over by the rhythm guitar, plays here as a somewhat syncopated drum lookup. The strings play the chord carpet in different inversions. The Main-2-Part is a "Tutti-Effect-Rhythm", whereby the whole accompaniment takes over the special Ravels-Bolero-Rhythm over two bars.