

A classical oil painting of a young man, Juan Oliver Astorga, with dark hair and a white cravat, looking slightly to the left. The background is dark and textured.

Juan Oliver Astorga

(1733-1830)

SONATA EN TRÍO N°3

(1769)

Dos clarinetes y fagot

Two clarinets and bassoon

Sonata en trío nº 3. Juan Oliver Astorga
Versión para dos clarinetes y fagot
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Juan Oliver Astorga (Yecla, 1733-Madrid, 1830). Violinista, flautista y compositor español. Recibió las primeras lecciones de música en la capilla musical de la Iglesia de El Salvador (hoy conocida como Iglesia Vieja) de su ciudad natal. Hacia 1750 se trasladó a Valencia, viajando después a Nápoles, donde figura como músico en 1752. Oliver Astorga llevó una vida itinerante por diversas ciudades y cortes europeas. En 1760 se encuentra en Stuttgart al servicio del Duque de Württemberg. Allí entró a formar parte de la orquesta de la Gran Capilla, dirigida por Niccolò Jommelli. En 1766 se instala en Londres al servicio del Conde de Abingdon, flautista, compositor aficionado y futuro protector de Haydn durante las visitas que este realizara a Inglaterra a finales del XVIII. El hecho de que durante sus años en Inglaterra firmara con su nombre afrancesado, Jean Oliver, hace pensar a los historiadores que pasó unos años en Francia o Bélgica antes de viajar a Gran Bretaña. Al poco de llegar a Inglaterra comienza a participar en los conciertos organizados por Johann Christian Bach y Karl Friedrich Abel. Con ambos trabaría amistad y acabaría convirtiéndose en su colaborador. En 1775 vuelve a España y al año siguiente ingresa como violinista en el Palacio Real de Madrid, donde desarrollaría su actividad como compositor e instrumentista bajo los reinados de Carlos III, Carlos IV, José I y Fernando VII.

Gracias al título de una de sus composiciones sabemos que, durante su etapa inglesa, Oliver Astorga llegó a dirigir la banda de música del *Second Scottish Guards Regiment*; una unidad militar acantonada en Londres desde 1712 y que no retornaría a Escocia hasta principios del siglo XIX. Su colaboración con el ejército se repetiría en Madrid a mediados de la década de 1790. En esos años está documentada su participación en la creación y dirección de al menos una banda de música: la del *Regimiento de Voluntarios de Castilla*. Este destacamento contaba con unos veinte músicos y estaba formada por flautines, oboes, clarinetes, fagotes, clarines, trompas, serpentón, carrillón, bombo y platos¹. Dicha actividad estaría seguramente relacionada con su faceta de flautista y su experiencia como director de este tipo de agrupaciones. La colaboración de Oliver con el ejército habría que enmarcarla dentro de los preparativos para la Guerra del Rosellón (1793-95) y los regimientos que se crearon y reorganizaron para participar en el conflicto. Durante los años que Juan Oliver estuvo al servicio del rey, los músicos tenían prohibido realizar actividad alguna fuera de Palacio. Si esto ocurría, fue en contadas ocasiones y siempre con permiso real. Dentro de ese contexto prebélico, Carlos IV, el monarca de aquellos años, habría autorizado sin problemas esta actividad de carácter militar fuera de la Corte por parte de uno de sus músicos más destacados.

La *Sonata en trío nº 3* forma parte de una edición de seis sonatas compuestas originalmente para dos flautas o dos violines y bajo cifrado. Están dedicadas al Conde de Abingdon, el benefactor de Juan Oliver, y fueron publicadas en Londres en 1769 bajo el título: *Six Sonatas for two German Flutes or Two Violins and a Bass*. Esta versión para dos clarinetes y fagot ha sido realizada para la Escuela de Música de la Asociación de Amigos de la Música de Yecla. Junto a la parte de fagot se proporciona además una parte opcional para clarinete bajo.

En cuanto a la versatilidad en la elección de los instrumentos en la época de Juan Oliver, mencionaremos las palabras de Alejandro Massó, el mayor estudioso de la vida y obra de Oliver Astorga: “La mayoría de las obras de cámara del XVIII [...] se aconsejaban de facto no solo para los instrumentos reseñados en la portada, sino en infinidad de casos, expresamente para otros muchos, aparecidos y consolidados a lo largo del siglo: el oboe, la flauta y el flageolet, el nuevo clarinete, el fagot”². La combinación que proponemos bien pudo darse dentro de esa versatilidad tan ampliamente documentada, teniendo en cuenta, además, que las partes de clarinete de esta edición pueden tocarse sin problemas con clarinetes clásicos de cinco llaves, los más habituales durante la segunda mitad del siglo XVIII y primeros años del XIX.

Pedro Rubio

Madrid, diciembre de 2025

¹ Gil, J. (2014). *Aria con clarinete obligado*. Madrid: Visión Libros, p. 84.

² Massó, A. (2007). *Don Juan Oliver Astorga. Un maestro virtuoso de Murcia en las cortes de Nápoles, Alemania, Inglaterra y España*. Libro para el CD homónimo, p. 112. Madrid: Latin American Heritage.

Juan Oliver Astorga (Yecla, 1733-Madrid, 1830). Spanish violinist, flutist and composer. He received his first music lessons in the musical chapel of the Church of El Salvador (today known as Iglesia Vieja) in his hometown. Around 1750 he moved to Valencia, then travelling to Naples, where he appears as a musician in 1752. Oliver Astorga led an itinerant life through various European cities and courts. In 1760 he was in Stuttgart in the service of the Duke of Württemberg. There he joined the orchestra of the Grand Chapel, conducted by Niccolò Jommelli. In 1766 he settled in London in the service of the Earl of Abingdon, flutist, amateur composer and future protector of Haydn during the visits he made to England at the end of the eighteenth century. The fact that during his years in England he signed with his Frenchified name, Jean Oliver, makes historians think that he spent a few years in France or Belgium before traveling to Great Britain. Shortly after arriving in England, he began to participate in concerts organized by Johann Christian Bach and Karl Friedrich Abel. He would become friends with both of them and would end up becoming their collaborator. In 1775 he returned to Spain and the following year he entered the Royal Palace of Madrid as a violinist, where he would develop his activity as a composer and instrumentalist under the reigns of Charles III, Charles IV, Joseph I and Ferdinand VII.

Thanks to the title of one of his compositions, we know that, during his English period, Oliver Astorga came to direct the music band of the *Second Scottish Guards Regiment*; a military unit quartered in London since 1712 and which would not return to Scotland until the early nineteenth century. His collaboration with the army would be repeated in Madrid in the mid-1790s. In those years his participation in the creation and direction of at least one music band is documented: that of the *Regiment of Volunteers of Castile*. This detachment had about twenty musicians and was made up of piccolos, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, bugles, horns, serpent, carillon, bass drum and cymbals.¹ This activity would surely be related to his facet as a flutist and his experience as director of this type of group. Oliver's collaboration with the army should be framed within the preparations for the War of Roussillon (1793-95) and the regiments that were created and reorganized to participate in the conflict. During the years that Juan Oliver was in the service of the king, musicians were forbidden to carry out any activity outside the Palace. If this happened, it was on rare occasions and always with royal permission. Within this pre-war context, Charles IV, the monarch of those years, would have authorized this military activity outside the Court by one of his most notorious musicians without problems.

The *Trio Sonata No. 3* is part of an edition of six sonatas originally composed for two flutes or two violins and ciphers bass. They are dedicated to the Earl of Abingdon, Oliver's benefactor, and were published in London in 1769 under the title: *Six Sonatas for two German Flutes or Two Violins and a Bass*. This version for two clarinets and bassoon has been made for the School of Music of the Association of Friends of Music of Yecla. Along with the bassoon part, an optional bass clarinet part is also provided.

As for the versatility in the choice of instruments in the time of Juan Oliver, we will mention the words of Alejandro Massó, the most prominent scholar of the life and work of Oliver Astorga: "Most of the chamber works of the eighteenth century [...] they were de facto recommended not only for the instruments mentioned on the title page, but in countless cases, expressly for many others, which appeared and were consolidated throughout the century: the oboe, the flute and the flageolet, the new clarinet, the bassoon".² The combination that we propose could well have occurred within that versatility so widely documented, taking into account, in addition, that the clarinet parts of this edition can be played without problems with classical five-key clarinets, the most common during the second half of the eighteenth century and the early years of the nineteenth.

Pedro Rubio

Madrid, December 2025

¹ Gil, J. (2014). *Aria con clarinete obligado*. Madrid: Visión Libros, p. 84.

² Massó, A. (2007). *Don Juan Oliver Astorga. Un maestro virtuoso de Murcia en las cortes de Nápoles, Alemania, Inglaterra y España*. Booklet for the self-titled CD, p. 112. Madrid: Latin American Heritage.

Sonata en trío n° 3

(1769)

para dos clarinetes y fagot

Juan Oliver Astorga

(1733-1830)

Arr. P. Rubio

I

Allegro

The musical score is written for three parts: Clarinete 1° en Sib, Clarinete 2° en Sib, and Fagot. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into four systems, each containing three measures. The first system starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The third system starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The fourth system starts with a piano (p) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Clarinete 1° en Sib

Clarinete 2° en Sib

Fagot

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

13

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

p

mf

17

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

20

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mf

mf

mf

23

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

p

p

26

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

30

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

34

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mf

mf

mf

38

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

f

f

tr

tr

41

Cl. 1°

p

mf

Cl. 2°

p

mf

Fag.

p

mf

44

Cl. 1°

f

p

Cl. 2°

f

p

Fag.

f

p

48

Cl. 1°

f

p

Cl. 2°

f

p

Fag.

p

f

52

Cl. 1°

f

Cl. 2°

f

Fag.

p

f

56

Cl. 1° *f*

Cl. 2° *f*

Fag. *f*

59

Cl. 1° *p*

Cl. 2° *p*

Fag. *p*

62

Cl. 1° *f*

Cl. 2° *f*

Fag. *f*

65

Cl. 1° *mf*

Cl. 2° *mf*

Fag. *mf*

68

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

p

p

p

72

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

3

3

75

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

3

3

78

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

81

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

84

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

f

f

87

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

p

p

90

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

f

f

100

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

The musical score for measures 100-104 features three staves. Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1°) and Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2°) are in treble clef, and the Bassoon (Fag.) is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs. In measure 100, Cl. 1° has a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note Bb4. Cl. 2° has a half note G3, a quarter rest, and a half note A3. The Fag. has a half note G2, a quarter rest, and a half note A2. In measure 101, Cl. 1° has a half note A4, a quarter note Bb4, and a half note C5. Cl. 2° has a half note A3, a quarter note Bb3, and a half note C4. The Fag. has a half note A2, a quarter note Bb2, and a half note C3. In measure 102, Cl. 1° has a half note Bb4, a quarter note C5, and a half note D5. Cl. 2° has a half note Bb3, a quarter note C4, and a half note D4. The Fag. has a half note Bb2, a quarter note C3, and a half note D3. In measure 103, Cl. 1° has a half note C5, a quarter note D5, and a half note E5. Cl. 2° has a half note C4, a quarter note D4, and a half note E4. The Fag. has a half note C3, a quarter note D3, and a half note E3. In measure 104, Cl. 1° has a half note D5, a quarter note E5, and a half note F5. Cl. 2° has a half note D4, a quarter note E4, and a half note F4. The Fag. has a half note D3, a quarter note E3, and a half note F3.

105

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

f

f

This musical score shows measures 105, 106, and 107 for three woodwind instruments: Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1°), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2°), and Bassoon (Fag.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 105 features a melodic line in Cl. 1° starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and C5, with a slur and a forte (*f*) dynamic. Cl. 2° has a whole rest, and the Fag. has a quarter note on G3. Measure 106 shows Cl. 1° with a sixteenth-note scale from G4 to C5, marked *f*. Cl. 2° has a whole rest, and the Fag. has a quarter note on G3. Measure 107 features a sixteenth-note scale from G4 to C5 in Cl. 1°, marked *f*. Cl. 2° has a whole rest, and the Fag. has a quarter note on G3.

108

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

111

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

114

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

f

p

f

p

f

118

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

f

p

f

p

f

II

Adagio

Clarinete 1°
en Sib

Clarinete 2°
en Sib

Fagot

p

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mf

mp

tr

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mp

mf

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

14

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

mf

mf

16

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

mf

p

mf

18

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

mp

mp

mp

21

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

24

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

28

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mf

tr

mp

mf

tr

mp

mf

mp

32

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr.

36

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

39

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

42

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

46

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mf

mp

48

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

mp

mf

51

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

mp

54

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

tr

57

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

p

p

59

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

p

p

p

III

Allegro

Clarinete 1°
en Sib

Clarinete 2°
en Sib

Fagot

f

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

3

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

3

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

mf

tr

13

17

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

20

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

24

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

28

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

31

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

tr

3

34

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

f

tr

38

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

42

Cl. 1°

Cl. 2°

Fag.

tr

3

45

Cl. 1°

tr

Cl. 2°

Fag.

48

Cl. 1°

p

Cl. 2°

p

Fag.

p

52

Cl. 1°

tr

Cl. 2°

tr

Fag.

56

Cl. 1°

f

Cl. 2°

f

Fag.

f

60

Cl. 1°

tr

mf

Cl. 2°

tr

mf

Fag.

mf

64

Cl. 1°

tr

3

tr

Cl. 2°

tr

3

tr

Fag.

68

Cl. 1°

tr

3

tr

Cl. 2°

tr

3

tr

Fag.

72

Cl. 1°

f

tr

Cl. 2°

f

tr

Fag.

f

Sonata en trío nº 3

(1769)

Juan Oliver Astorga

(1733-1830)

Arr. P. Rubio

Allegro

I

6

10

14

19

22

25

29

36

41

46

51

Clarinete 1° en Sib

56 *f* *p*

62 *f*

66 *mf* *tr*

70 *p*

75

79

83 *tr* *f* *p*

89 *f*

93 *p* *f*

97 *tr* *p*

104 *f*

108 *tr*

112 *p* *f*

118 *p* *f*

Clarinete 1º en Sib

Adagio

[illegible]

Clarinete 1º en Sib

Allegro

III

The musical score for "III Allegro" consists of twelve staves of music. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The piece begins at measure 6 with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and triplets. Trills are indicated by "tr" above certain notes. Dynamic markings include *f*, *mf*, and *p*. The score concludes at measure 72 with a final cadence. Measure numbers 6, 12, 17, 22, 27, 31, 36, 42, 47, 51, 57, 63, 68, and 72 are printed at the beginning of their respective staves.

Allegro

I

5

9

13

18

22

26

32

39

45

51

Clarinete 2º en Sib

56

60 *f*

64 *p* *f* *mf*

68 *tr* *p* 3

75 3

80 *tr*

84 *f*

88 *p* *f* *p*

91 *f* *p*

95 *tr* *f* *p*

101 *f*

107 *tr* *p* *f*

112 *tr* *p* *f*

118 *p* *f*

Clarinete 2° en Si $\flat$

Adagio

II $\frac{3}{4}$ 2

p *mp* *tr* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *p* *tr* *mp* *mf* *p*

Allegro

III

6 *f*

11

15 *mf*

20

25

30

35 *f*

41

45

50 *p*

56

62 *f* *mf*

67

71 *f*

Sonata en trío nº 3

(1769)

Juan Oliver Astorga

(1733-1830)

Arr. P. Rubio

Allegro

I

7

12

17

23

30

36

41

47

54

Fagot

60



66



71



76



82



88



94



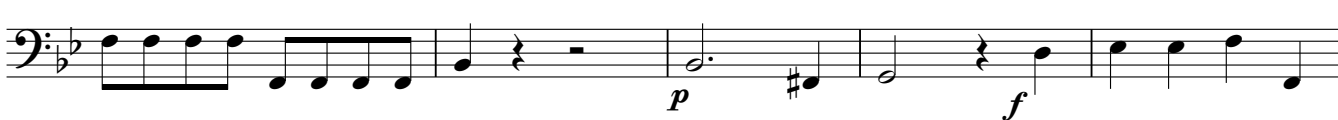
100



107



113



118



Fagot

Adagio

II

p *mf*

7

13

p *mf* *p* *mf*

18

mp

23

28

mf *mp*

33

38

cresc. *f* *p*

43

mp

49

55

p *p*

Fagot

Allegro

III *f*

6

12

17 *mf*

22

27

33 *f*

38 *f*

44

49 *p*

55

60 *f*

65 *mf*

71 *f*

Clarinete bajo
(Opcional Fagot)

Sonata en trío nº 3

(1769)

Juan Oliver Astorga
(1733-1830)
Arr. P. Rubio

Allegro

I

7

12

17

23

30

36

41

47

54

Clarinete bajo

60

p *f*

66

mf

71

p 3 3

76

82

f

88

p *f*

94

p *f* *p*

100

f

107

113

p *f*

118

p *f*

Clarinete bajo

Adagio

II

p *mf*

7

13 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

18 *mp*

23

28 *mf* *mp*

33

38 *cresc.* *f* *p*

43 *mp*

49

55 *p* *p*

Clarinete bajo

Allegro

III

6 *f*

12

17 *mf*

22

27

33 *f*

38

44

49

55 *p*

60 *f*

65 *mf*

71 *f*