

Jon F. Howe

Fantasia on an Olde English Tune

for Chamber Orchestra

Duration: 6 Minutes

Perusal Score

Instrumentation

Flute/Piccolo

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Tuba

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

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Program Notes

When I first heard the folk song *Death and the Lady*, I was fascinated by it in many ways. The snaking melody, the shifting modes, and the lyrical content (shown below) that, while somber in nature, weren't depressing and in some ways joyous in sound. All of these elements were fascinating to me and I instantly wanted to take the material as a basis of a composition. I decided to take the core melody of the first verse, in the versions that I have heard it as, and use it as the basis for a theme and variations. In the short 6 minutes of the piece there's 12 variations, an introduction, and a coda. Each variation contains at least a small fragment of the original melody, though it is more hidden in some than others. Despite the storytelling nature of the original song, this piece isn't really programmatic, though it still plays with the meaning behind the lyrical content in the final two variations. The second to last variation represents the woman's pleas to give her a little more time, while the final variation and coda turn into a funeral march to reflect how despite her pleas, Death still comes for her in the end.

Original Theme: Death and the Lady



Text

As I walked out one day, one day
I met an aged man by the way.
His head was bald, his beard was grey,
His clothing made of the cold earthen clay,
His clothing made of the cold earthen clay.

I said, "Old man, what man are you?
What country do you belong unto?"
"My name is Death—hast heard of me?
All kings and princes bow down unto me
And you fair maid must come along with me."

"I'll give you gold, I'll give you pearl,
I'll give you costly rich robes to wear,
If you will spare me a little while
And give me time my life to amend,
And give me time my life to amend"

"I'll have no gold, I'll have no pearl,
I want no costly rich robes to wear.
I cannot spare you a little while
Nor give you time your life to amend,
Nor give you time your life to amend"

In six months time this fair maid died;
"Let this be put on my tombstone," she cried,
"Here lies a poor distressed maid.
Just in her bloom she was snatched away,
Her clothing made of the cold earthen clay."

Fantasia on an Olde English Tune

for Chamber Orchestra

Jon F. Howe (2024)

Introduction ♩ = 80

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Tuba

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

con sord.

mp

fp

pp

ord.

p dolce

poco a poco

sul tasto

3

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

This musical score is for a piece titled "Fantasia on an Olde English Tune". It is a page from a larger score, as indicated by the page number "5" in the top right corner. The score is written for a full orchestra, including woodwinds, brass, and strings. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. in Bb), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Trumpet in C (Tpt in C), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba). The string section includes Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score is written in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line, while the brass instruments provide harmonic support. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Perusal Score" is overlaid across the center of the page.

Fl. *mp dolce*

Ob. *mp dolce*

Cl. in Bb *mp dolce*

Bsn. *mp dolce*

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I *mf* *n* *p*

Vln II

Vla

Vc. *mp*

D. B.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

mp dolce

pp

fp

p

mf

senza sord.

pp

fp

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 Var I. Fanfare in Obtuse Angles ♩ = 104

The musical score is for a piece titled "Var I. Fanfare in Obtuse Angles" with a tempo of 104 beats per minute. It is arranged for a large ensemble of instruments. The score is divided into two systems, each starting with a measure number in a box (19 and 20). The instruments are listed on the left of each staff. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. in Bb), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Trumpet in C (Tpt in C), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba). The second system includes Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The music is written in 4/4 time, with key signatures of one flat (Bb) and one sharp (F#). The first system features a fanfare for the Horn in F, Trumpet in C, Trombone, and Tuba, with dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and triplets. The second system features a fanfare for the Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass, with dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and triplets.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn.

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

23 24 25 26 27 28

29 Var II. Offbeat Polka ♩ = 72

Fl. *n* *p* (echo)

Ob. *n* *p*

Cl. in Bb *n* *p*

Bsn. solo *mf*

Hn in F solo *mp*

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba.

29 Var II. Offbeat Polka ♩ = 72

Vln I pizz. *mp* *p* arco

Vln II pizz. *mp* *p* arco

Vla pizz. *mp*

Vc. pizz. *mp*

D. B. pizz. *mp*

29 30 31 32

[illegible]

36 Var III. Interlude for Doves

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

36 Var III. Interlude for Doves

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Perusal Score

The musical score is for a section titled 'Var III. Interlude for Doves'. It spans three measures across three staves. The first staff (Flute) contains a melodic line with triplet eighth notes. The second staff (Oboe) has a similar triplet pattern, marked 'pp' (pianissimo). The third staff (Clarinet in Bb) also features a triplet melody. The Bassoon staff has a triplet bass line, also marked 'pp'. The Horn in F, Trumpet in C, Trombone, and Tuba staves are empty. The Violin I and Violin II staves are empty. The Viola staff is empty. The Violoncello staff is empty. The Double Bass staff begins with a quarter note G2 and a quarter rest, then remains empty for the rest of the section.

accel.....

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn.

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba.

accel.....

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

ord.

pp

arco

pp

6

Perusal Score

41 Var IV. Starry Landscapes ♩ = 86

The score is for a piece titled 'Var IV. Starry Landscapes' with a tempo of 86 beats per minute. It is arranged for a full orchestra. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. in Bb), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Trumpet in C (Tpt in C), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The brass section includes Horn in F (Hn in F), Trumpet in C (Tpt in C), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The string section includes Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score is divided into measures 41 through 46. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *pp* (pianissimo), with *sim.* (sforzando) markings. The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line, while the brass provides harmonic support. The score is marked with a large 'Perusal Score' watermark.

Fl. *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Ob. *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Cl. in Bb *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Bsn. *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Hn in F *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Tpt in C *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Tbn. *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Tba. *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

41 Var IV. Starry Landscapes ♩ = 86

Vln I *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Vln II *ord.* *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Vla *arco* *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

Vc. *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

D. B. *arco* *mp* > *pp* *sim.*

41 42 43 44 45 46

The image displays a page from a musical score titled "Var V. Shifting Waltz" with a tempo marking of quarter note = 60. The score spans measures 47 through 52. It features staves for Flute I (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in Bb), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Trumpet in C (Tpt in C), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). A large diagonal watermark reading "Perusal Score" is overlaid across the center of the page. The music includes various dynamics such as *f*, *mf*, *mp*, and *f sub.*, along with articulation marks like accents and slurs. Measure numbers are printed at the bottom of each staff group: 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, and 52.

57

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

53 54 55 56 57 58

mf *f* *mp* *mf* *f sub.* *mp*

mp *ffp sub.* *mp* *p sub.*

tutti *mf* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p* *p sub.* *p sub.*

63

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

63

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

59 60 61 62 63 64

mp

mp

mp

mp

*mf*³

ffp sub.

ffp sub.

mp

f

*mp*³

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

ffp sub.

mp

fp

p

mf

arco

p

mp

mp

65 66 67 68 69 70

f

rall.

76 Var VI. Walking Bass ♩ = 100

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

76 Var VI. Walking Bass ♩ = 100

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

mf

mf

mf

mf walking bass

mf walking bass

mf

f

solo

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

mf

mf

mf

79 80 81 82

To Picc. rall.....

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

fp *ff*

rall.....

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

87 Var. VII. Reintroduction ♩ = 72

Picc.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn. con sord. *mp*

Tba

87 Var. VII. Reintroduction ♩ = 72

Vln I *mp* *pp*

Vln II *mp* *pp*

Vla *mp* *pp*

Vc. arco *mp* *pp*

D. B. arco *mp* *pp*

87 88 89 90

accel.....Var. VIII. Swashbuckling Adventure ♩ = 96

93

~~acel.....~~ **Var. VIII. Swashbuckling Adventure** ♩ = 96

94

Picc. solo *mf* 3 3

Ob. 6 *p*

Cl. in Bb

Bsn. *mp*

Hn in F *mp*

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I 3 3 3 3

Vln II 3 3

Vla. *mf* 3 3

Vc.

D. B.

Perusal Score

Perusal Score

The musical score is arranged in three measures, numbered 98, 99, and 100 at the bottom. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Picc.**: Treble clef. Measure 98 has triplet eighth notes. Measure 99 has a *fp* dynamic and a long slur. Measure 100 has a *f* to *p* dynamic change and a final note.
- Ob.**: Treble clef. All measures contain whole rests.
- Cl. in Bb**: Treble clef. All measures contain whole rests. Measure 100 has a *solo* marking and a *f* dynamic on the final note.
- Bsn**: Bass clef. Measure 98 has quarter notes with accents. Measure 99 has eighth notes. Measure 100 has a whole note with a *n* (natural) marking.
- Hn in F**: Treble clef. Measure 98 has quarter notes with accents. Measure 99 has eighth notes. Measure 100 has a whole note with a *n* (natural) marking.
- Tpt in C**: Treble clef. All measures contain whole rests.
- Tbn.**: Bass clef. All measures contain whole rests.
- Tba**: Bass clef. All measures contain whole rests.
- Vln I**: Treble clef. All measures contain whole rests. Measure 100 has a triplet eighth note.
- Vln II**: Treble clef. All measures contain whole rests.
- Vla**: Alto clef. Measure 98 has triplet eighth notes. Measure 99 has a quarter note and a whole rest. Measure 100 has a whole rest.
- Vc.**: Bass clef. Measure 98 has whole rests. Measure 99 has eighth notes with a *mf* dynamic and triplet markings. Measure 100 has eighth notes with triplet markings.
- D. B.**: Bass clef. All measures contain whole rests.

To Fl.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

mp

p

mf

n

f

p sempre

p

101

102

103

104

106 Var IX. Ascension ♩ = 72

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

f

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

behind the beat

senza sord.

106 Var IX. Ascension ♩ = 72

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

mp

mp

mp

mp

like the waves crashing,
change bowing slowly, repeat asynchronously,
do not change to new tempo

like the waves crashing,
change bowing slowly, repeat asynchronously,
do not change to new tempo

like the waves crashing,
change bowing slowly, repeat asynchronously,
do not change to new tempo

like the waves crashing,
change bowing slowly, repeat asynchronously,
do not change to new tempo

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

[illegible]

110

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Perusal Score

Change on 4

6

Change on 3

6

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

repeat ad lib.

A musical score page featuring a large, diagonal watermark that reads "Perusal Score". The watermark is written in a large, black, sans-serif font, slanted from the bottom-left towards the top-right. The background shows a musical score with staves, notes, and a measure number "7" at the top. The watermark is semi-transparent, allowing the musical notation to be seen through it.

mf pesante

118

119 Var X. Theme Dances ♩ = 72

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. in Bb *p*

Bsn *p*

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

119 Var X. Theme Dances ♩ = 72

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Perusal Score

124 Var XI. Lamenting Themes $\text{♩} = 60$

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Cl. in Bb *pp*

Bsn *pp*

Hn in F bell tones *f*

Tpt in C senza sord. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Tba bell tones *mf*

124 Var XI. Lamenting Themes $\text{♩} = 60$

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc. pizz. *mf* like a funeral procession

D. B. pizz. *mf* like a funeral procession

124 125 126 127 128 129 130

134 Var. XII. Memory of a Theme ♩ = 72

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

f

fp

p

ppp

f

fp

p

ppp

f

fp

p

ppp

pp

pp

arco

pp

p

bell tones

bell tones

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in Bb

Bsn

Hn in F

Tpt in C

Tbn.

Tba

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Perusal Score

137

138

139

140

f

mf

p

arco

This musical score page contains measures 141 through 146. It is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. in Bb), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Trumpet in C (Tpt in C), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The second system includes staves for Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.).

Measure 141: Marked with a box containing "141" and the word "Coda". The tempo is "a tempo". The Flute part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba parts have whole rests. The Trumpet part has a half note G4. The Violin I and II parts have whole rests. The Viola part has a half note G3, followed by a half note A3. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have whole rests.

Measure 142: The Flute part has a half note A4, followed by a half note B4. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba parts have whole rests. The Trumpet part has a half note A4. The Violin I and II parts have whole rests. The Viola part has a half note A3, followed by a half note B3. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have whole rests.

Measure 143: The Flute part has a half note B4, followed by a half note C5. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba parts have whole rests. The Trumpet part has a half note B4. The Violin I and II parts have whole rests. The Viola part has a half note B3, followed by a half note C4. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have whole rests.

Measure 144: The Flute part has a half note C5, followed by a half note B4. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba parts have whole rests. The Trumpet part has a half note C5. The Violin I and II parts have whole rests. The Viola part has a half note C4, followed by a half note B3. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have whole rests.

Measure 145: The Flute part has a half note B4, followed by a half note A4. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba parts have whole rests. The Trumpet part has a half note B4. The Violin I and II parts have whole rests. The Viola part has a half note A3, followed by a half note G3. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have whole rests.

Measure 146: The Flute part has a half note A4, followed by a half note G4. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba parts have whole rests. The Trumpet part has a half note A4. The Violin I and II parts have whole rests. The Viola part has a half note G3, followed by a half note F3. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts have whole rests.

Dynamic markings: *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *ppp* (pianississimo), *fp* (fortissimo piano), *n* (normal), *pizz.* (pizzicato).

Other markings: *rit.* (ritardando), *a tempo*, *8va* (octave), *sol.* (solo), *like the bells tolling*, *harmon mute*.