JOSEPH SOWA

FANTASY ON AN IRISH TUNE

for orchestra

WINDHAM MUSIC PRESS

PERUSAL SCORE

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2024

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INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes (2 = English Horn)
2 Clarinets in B-flat
2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
2 Tenor Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani
Percussion (5 players):
- I: Glockenspiel, Vibraslap, Crash Cymbals
- II: Xylophone, Tam-tam, Crotales
- III: Vibraphone, Tambourine, Triangle
- IV: 3 Tom-toms (8”, 10”, 12”), 2 Suspended Cymbals (16”, 22”)
- V: Bass Drum, Snare Drum

Harp
Piano

Strings

PROGRAM NOTE

The Cliffs of Moher rise almost 400 feet (~120 meters) above Ireland’s western Atlantic coast. The traditional jig of the same name resembles those cliffs in how it cascades from prominent high opening notes. As with all traditional tunes, “The Cliffs of Moher” exists in many variations.

I encountered both the cliffs and the tune in the summer of 2024. As my parents and I hiked for miles along the cliff’s edge, the cliffs remained constant, yet each new bend revealed a fresh perspective. My piece “Fantasy on an Irish Tune” reflects that experience.

It takes “The Cliffs of Moher” as its basis and follows in the Irish tradition where stories grow and change in the telling while remaining recognizably themselves. Rather than presenting the tune straight through, the piece weaves together fragments and phrases from different versions of the melody—sometimes layering them, sometimes letting them echo and answer each other.

Just as a skilled *seanchaí* might spin a single tale in many ways to suit the moment, this piece unfolds through such transformations of the melody. Each new context illuminates different aspects of its character, much as changing light and weather reshape our experience of a landscape. These moments flow into one another, creating a musical narrative that reflects how tradition keeps things alive by allowing them to change.

“Fantasy on an Irish Tune” was commissioned by the Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University and the American Composers Orchestra, with support from the Steven R. Gerber Trust.

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

PERUSAL SCORE

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Transposed Score

Fantasy on an Irish Tune

Joseph Sowa

Enchanted ♩. = 113

Piccolo

Flute 1 2

Oboe 1

Cor Anglais

Clarinet in B♭ 1 2

Bassoon 1 2

Enchanted ♩. = 113

Horn in F 1 2 3 4

Trumpet in C 1 2

straight mute

Trombone 1 2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Enchanted ♩. = 113

Timpani

Glockenspiel

Tam-tam

Vibraphone

Suspended Cymbals

Bass Drum

Harp

Piano

Enchanted ♩. = 113

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

PERUSAL SCORE

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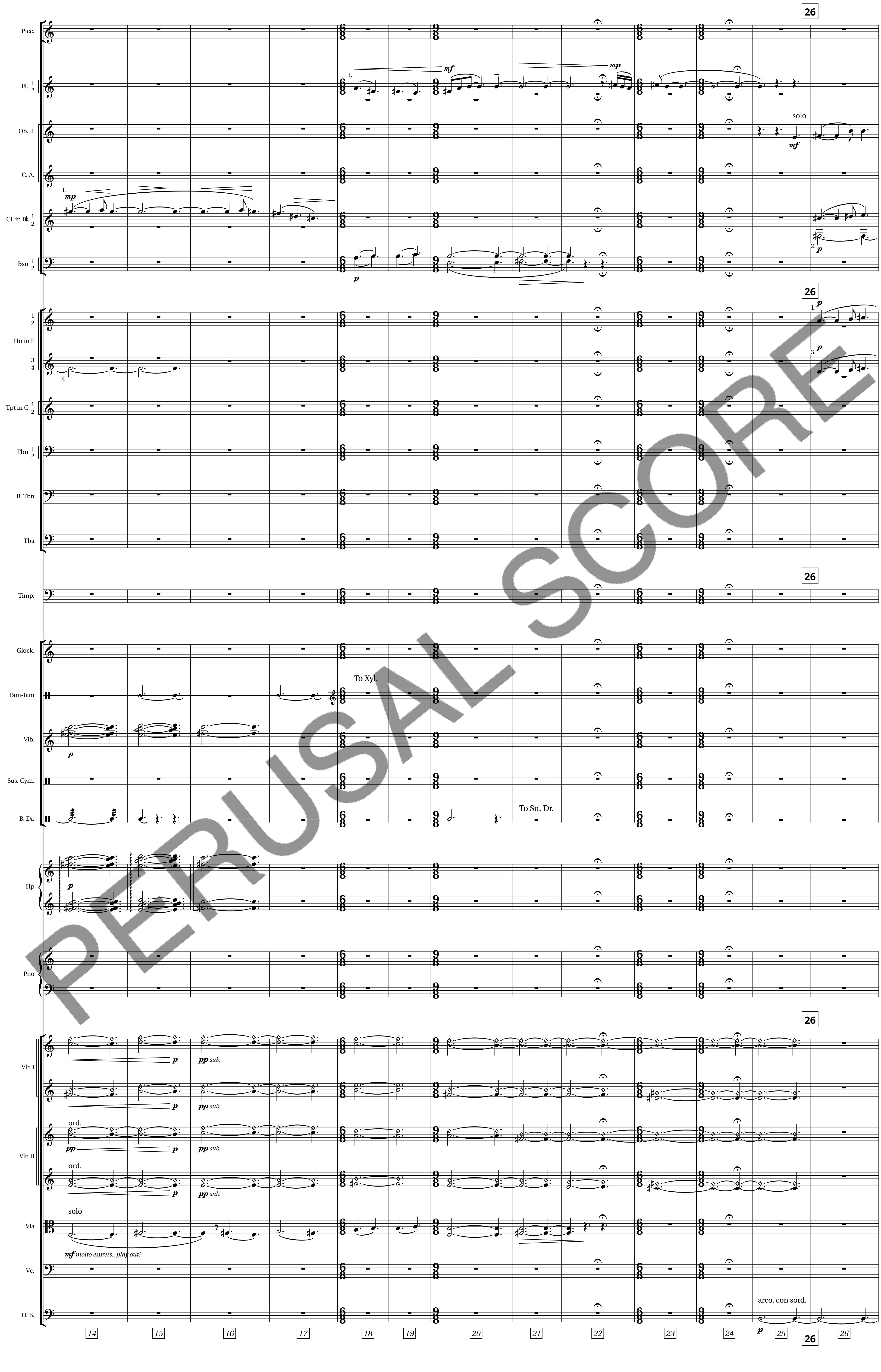

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
C. A.
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Xyl.
Vib.
Sus. Cym.
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

straight mute
open
unis., con sord.
con sord.
tutti., con sord.
tutti, con sord.
senza sord.
div.
pizz.

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
1 Fl. 2
Ob. 1
C. A.
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
1 2 Hn in F 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Xyl.
Vib.
Sus. Cym.
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

PERUSAL SCORE

poco rit.

51 a tempo

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

Ob. 1

C. A.

Cl. in B♭ 1 2

Bsn 1 2

Hn in F 1 2 3 4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn 1 2

B. Tbn

Tba

Timp.

Glock.

Vib.

Sus. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

Hp

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Sus Cym.

To Tom.

div. a 3

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
1 Fl.
2
Ob. 1
C. A.
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
1 2 Hn in F
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Crot.
Vib.
Toms
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

straight mute
Crot.
pizz.
arco
non cresc.

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
C. A.
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
mp
mp
1 2
Hn in F
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
To Vbsl.
To Xyl.
Crot.
Vib.
Toms
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
non vib.
pp
Vln I
non vib.
pp
non vib.
pp
Vln II
non vib.
pp
non vib.
Vla
non vib.
Vc.
non vib.
D. B.
63
64
65
66
p non dim.
67
68
69
70

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

72

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1

C. A.

Cl. in B♭ 1 2

Bsn 1 2

Hn in F 1 2

Hn in F 3 4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn 1 2

B. Tbn

Tba

Timp.

Vbsl.

Xyl.

Vib.

Toms

Sn. Dr.

Hp

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

a 2 *f teasing*

1. *mf*

straight mute

2. *f*

p

mf

mp

f

espress.

8va

(Ped.)

unis.

div. a 2

ord.

div.

pizz.

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
C. A.
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Vbsl.
Xyl.
Vib.
Toms
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

91

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1

C. A.

Cl. in B♭ 1 2

Bsn 1 2

91

1 2

Hn in F

3 4

Tpt in C 1 2

straight mute

Tbn 1 2

straight mute

B. Tbn

straight mute

Tba

straight mute

91

Timp.

Vbsl.

Xyl.

To Crot.

Crot.

Vib.

To Tri.

Toms

Sn. Dr.

Hp

(slow, ethereal gliss.)

Pno

91

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

pizz.

91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98

91

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
C. A.
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2
Hn in F 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Vbsl.
Crot.
Tri.
Toms
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

To Ob.
a 2
Vbsl.
Tri.
To Vib.
arco
gliss.

99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107

PERUSAL SCORE

108

Picc. *p* *mf*

Fl. 1 2 *mp*

Ob. 1 2 *p* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ 1 2 1. *mf*

Bsn 1 2 1. *mf*

108

1 2

Hn in F 3 4

Tpt in C 1 2 1. *mf* open

Tbn 1 2

B. Tbn

Tba open *p*

108

Timp.

Vbsl. To Cr. Cym. *p*

Crot. To Xyl. *mf*

Vib. solo *mf*

Toms

Sn. Dr. rim *p* To B. Dr.

Hp *p*

Pno *p*

108

Vln I div., pizz. *p* unis. *mf*

Vln II div., pizz. *p* unis. *mf*

Vla III *p*3 *tr* *p* *mf* div. *fp*

Vc. gliss. *p* *mf* gliss. *p* *mf* div. *p*

D. B. *pp* *pp* gliss. *mf* *p*

108 108 109 110 111 112 113 114

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
1 2
Hn in F
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Xyl.
Tri.
Toms
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

1. solo
a 2
Sn. Dr.

122 123 124 125 126 127

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

129 **Genteel** (♩. = ♩)

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Xyl.
Tri.
Toms
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Vbsl.
Tam-tam
Tri.
Sus. Cym.
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

a 2
solo
poco rit.
147
A tempo (♩ = ♩.)
mf non cresc.
ff
open
To Glock.
To Cr. Cym.
To Tamb.
Cr. Cym.
Tamb.
B. Dr.
arco
non div.

138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
Bsn 1 2
a 2
Hn in F 1 2
Hn in F 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Cr. Cym.
To Vbsl.
Tam-tam
Tamb.
Sus. Cym.
B. Dr.
To Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.
pizz.
sul pont.
div.
arco sul pont.
gliss.
intense
III
155
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Vbsl.
Tam-tam
Tri.
Sus. Cym.
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

pp p mp mf f a 2 1. 2. To Tri. To Xyl. Vbsl. Tri. Sus Cym. Sn. Dr. (sul pont.) ord. unis. arco IV

156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1
2
Cl. in B♭ 1
2
Bsn 1
2
Hn in F 1 2
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Cr. Cym.
Xyl.
Tri.
Sus. Cym.
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

mf *p* *mp* *f espress.* *cresc.* div. arco

182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

broadening

201 a tempo

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

1

Cl. in B♭

2

Bsn 1 2

a 2

Hn in F 1 2 3 4

Tpt in C 1 2

Tbn 1

2

B. Tbn

Tba

Timp.

Cr. Cym.

Xyl.

Tamb.

Sus. Cym.

B. Dr.

Hp

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

bring out

f under the strings

mp

mf

ff

gliss ad lib.: lush and full

gliss.

198 199 200 201 202 203 204

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
2
Bsn 1 2
a 2
Hn in F 1 2
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1
2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Cr. Cym.
Xyl.
Tamb.
Sus. Cym.
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.
To Glock.
To Tom.
Tom.
div.
205 206 207 208 209 210 211

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1
2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Xyl.
Tamb.
Toms
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

a 2
Xyl.
Sus Cym.
unis.
gliss.
8va

212 213 214 215 216 217 218

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
Hn in F 1 2 3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Glock.
Xyl.
Tamb.
Sus. Cym.
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

a 2
div.

219 220 221 222 223 224

PERUSAL SCORE

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
1 Fl.
2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
1 Hn in F 2
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
1 Tbn 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Cr. Cym.
Xyl.
Tamb.
Sus. Cym.
Sn. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

235

ff mp sub. mf mp f a 2 To Tam-tam To Tom. To B. Dr.

232 233 234 235 236 237

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
1 2
Hn in F
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Cr. Cym.
Tam-tam
Tamb.
Toms
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

ff *mf* *f not too much* *ff bring out* gliss. 8va

238 239 240 241 242 243

PERUSAL SCORE

Picc.
Fl. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cl. in B♭ 1 2
Bsn 1 2
1 2
Hn in F
3 4
Tpt in C 1 2
Tbn 1 2
B. Tbn
Tba
Timp.
Cr. Cym.
Xyl.
Tamb.
Toms
B. Dr.
Hp
Pno
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

mp sub. f ff

gliss.

To Xyl.

Xyl. 8va

Tom.

244 245 246 247 248 249

PERUSAL SCORE