

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

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Fantasy on an Irish Tune

Joseph Sowa

[illegible]

[illegible]

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony, featuring various instruments and their parts. The score is written in standard musical notation with staves for Piccolo, Flute 1 & 2, Oboe 1, Clarinet in A, Clarinet in Bb 1 & 2, Bassoon 1 & 2, Horn in F 1 & 2, Horn in F 3 & 4, Trumpet in C 1 & 2, Trombone 1 & 2, Baritone Trombone, Tuba, Timpani, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum, Harp, Piano, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *f*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A large diagonal watermark "PERUSAL SCORING" is visible across the page.

PERUSAL SCORING

40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47

Picc. *poco rit.* **51 a tempo**
 1 *ff*
 Fl. 2 *ff*
 Ob. 1 *ff*
 C. A. *ff*
 Cl. in Bb 1 *ff*
 2 *ff*
 Bsn 1 *ff*
 2 *ff*
 Hn in F *poco rit.* **51 a tempo**
 1 *ff*
 2 *ff*
 3 *ff*
 4 *ff*
 Tpt in C 1 *mp*
 2 *mp*
 Tbn 1 *mp*
 2 *mp*
 B. Tbn *mp*
 Tba *mp*
 Timp. *poco rit.* **51 a tempo**
 Glock. *f*
 Vib. *p*
 Sus. Cym. *Sus Cym.*
 Sn. Dr. *f*
 Hp *p*
 Pno *p*
 Vln I *poco rit.* **51 a tempo**
 Vln II *div. a 3*
 Vla *div. a 3*
 Vc. *ff*
 D. B. *ff*
 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Picc.

1

Fl.

2

Ob. 1

C. A.

CL. in Bb 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.

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

[illegible]

72

Picc.

72

Fl. 1
2

72

Ob. 1

72

C. A.

72

Cl. in B♭ 1
2

a 2
f teasing

1.
z

mf

72

Bsn 1
2

a 2
f teasing

1.
z

2. *f*

p

72

Hn in F 1
2

72

Hn in F 3
4

72

Tpt in C 1
2

1.
mf straight mute

72

Tbn 1
2

72

B. Tbn

72

Tba

72

Timp.

72

Vbsl.

72

Xyl.

72

Vib.

mf

72

Toms

72

Sn. Dr.

72

Hp

72

Pno

mf

8^{va}

72

Vln I unis.

72

Vln II

72

Vla ord. a 2
ord.
p

mf *espress.*

mp

f

p

72

Vla ord.
p

mf *espress.*

mp

f

p

72

Vc. div.
p

mf *espress.*

mp

f

p

72

Vc. *p*

mf *espress.*

mp

f

p

72

D. B.

pizz.

f

p

71

72

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

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.

Vbsl.

Xyl.

Vib.

Toms

Sn. Dr.

Hrp.

Pno

Vln I unis., ord.
p *mf* *espress.* *f* *mp*

Vln II unis., ord.
p *mf* *espress.* *f* *mp*

Vla unis.
mf *espress.* *f* *mp*

Vc. unis.
mf *espress.* *f* *mp*

D. B. *f* *arco* *mp*

82 *mf* 83 84 85 86 *f* 87 88 *mp* 89 90

91

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1

C. A.

Cl. in B $\flat$ 1
2

Bsn 1
2

91

Hn in F
3
4

Tpt in C 1
2

Tbn 1
2

B. Tbn

Tba

91

Timp.

Vbsl.

Xyl.

Vib.

Toms

Sn. Dr.

Hp

Pno

91

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1

C. A. *f* To Ob.

Cl. in B♭ 1 2 *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Bsn 1 2 *a 2*

Hn in F 1 2 *mf* 3 *mf* 4 *mf*

Tpt in C 1 2 *f*

Tbn 1 2 *f*

B. Tbn

Tba

Timp.

Vbsl. *Vbsl.* *mf*

Crot. *f*

Tri. *Tri.* *mf* To Vib.

Toms

Su. Dr. *mf*

Hp *f* *f*

Pno *mf*

Vln I *f sub.* *mf* *mf*

Vln II *f sub.* *mf* *mf*

Vla *f sub.* *mf* *mf* arco *mp*

Vc. *f sub.* *mf* *mf* arco *mp*

D. B. *f sub.* *mf* *mf* arco *pp*

99 *100* *101* *102* *103* *104* *105* *106* *107*

108

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Bsn 1
2

108

Hn in F 1
2

3
4

Tpt in C 1
2

Tbn 1
2

B. Tbn

Tba

108

Timp.

Vbsl.

To Cr. Cym.

Crot.

Vib. solo

Vib.

Toms

rim

Sn. Dr.

To B. Dr.

Hp

Pno

108

Vln I

div., pizz.

Vln II

div., pizz.

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

108

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

121

Picc. *f* *p sub.* *f*

1 *f* *p sub.* *f* *mp*

Fl. 2 *f* *p sub.* *f* *mp*

Ob. 1 *f* *p sub.* *f*

2 *f* *p sub.* *f*

Cl. in B♭ 1 *f* *p sub.* *f*

2 *f* *p sub.* *f*

Bsn 1 *f* *p sub.* *f*

2 *f* *p sub.* *f*

Hn in F 1 *f* *p sub.* *f*

2 *f* *p sub.* *f*

3 *f* *p sub.* *f*

4 *f* *p sub.* *f*

Tpt in C 1 *f* *straight mute* *p* *straight mute* *f*

2 *f* *straight mute* *p* *straight mute* *f*

Tbn 1 *p* *straight mute* *ff bring out* *gliss.*

2 *p* *straight mute* *ff bring out* *gliss.*

B. Tbn *p* *straight mute* *ff bring out* *gliss.*

Tba *f* *p* *f*

Timp. *p* *f* *p*

Cr. Cym. *f* *Cr. Cym.* *To Glock.*

Xyl. *mf* *Xyl.*

Vib. *To Tamb.* *Tamb.* *p sub.* *f* *To Tri.*

Toms. *p* *mf* *Tom.*

B. Dr. *f* *B. Dr.* *To Sn. Dr.*

Hp

Pno

Vln I *f* *p sub.* *f* *mf*

Vln II *f* *p sub.* *f* *mf*

Vla *div.* *mf* *unis.* *f* *p sub.* *f* *div.* *mf*

Vc. *f* *p sub.* *f* *mf* *div.* *mf*

D. B. *f* *p sub.* *f* *mf*

115 116 117 118 119 120 121

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Hr 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.

122

123

124

125

126

127

129 **Genteel** (♩. = ♩)

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1 2 *mf* a 2

Ob. 1 2 *mp* 1. 2. *mp* solo *f* solo *f* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ 1 2 *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Bsn. 1 2 *mf* a 2

1 2 *p*

Hr. in F 3 4 *p*

Tpt. in C 1 2 *p* 3. *mf*

Tbn. 1 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

129 **Genteel** (♩. = ♩)

1 2 *p*

3 4 *p*

1 2 *mf* 3. *mf*

129 **Genteel** (♩. = ♩)

Glock. *mf* Glock. *mf* To Vbsl.

Xyl. *mp* To Tam-tam

Tri. *mf* Tri.

Toms. To Sus Cym.

Sn. Dr. To B. Dr.

Hp.

Pno.

129 **Genteel** (♩. = ♩)

Vln. I *mp* *mf* 3 3 3 pizz. 3

Vln. II *mp* pizz. *mf* 3 arco *mf* 3 3 3 3

Vla. *mp* unis., pizz. *mf* 3 *mp*

Vc. *mp* unis., pizz. *mp*

D. B. *mp* pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz.

128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

1
Ob.

2

1
Cl. in B♭

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.

To Glock.

To Cr. Cym.

To Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

poco rit.

A tempo

mf

solo

a 2

mf

non cresc.

ff

p

f

open

poco rit.

A tempo

mp

mf

f

arco

non div.

f

arco

f

138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147

148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155

Picc. *pp*

Fl. 1 2 *pp*

1 *pp*

Ob. 2 *pp*

1 *pp*

Cl. in Bb 2 *pp*

Bsn 1 2 *pp*

Hn in F 1 2 *mf*

3 4 *mf*

Tpt in C 1 2 *f*

Tbn 1 2 *f*

B. Tbn *f*

Tba *f*

Timp. *f*

Vbsl. *f*

Tam-tam To Tri. To Xyl.

Tri. *p* *f*

Sus. Cym. *p* *f*

Sn. Dr. *p* *f*

Hp *f*

Pno

Vln I (sul pont.) → ord. *f*

Vln II *f*

Vla *f*

Vc. ord. *f*

D. B. arco *f*

156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163

165

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

1
Ob.

2

1
Cl. in Bb

2

Bsn 1
2

165

1
2
Hn in F

3
4

Tpt in C 1
2

Tbn 1
2

B. Tbn

Tba

165

Timp.

Vbsl.

Xyl.

Tri.

Sus. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

Hp

Pno

165

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172

165

177

Pic.

Fl. 1

2

1

Ob.

2

1

Cl. in Bb

2

1

Bsn

2

1

2

Hn in F

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.

173

174

175

176

177

177

178

179

180

181

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

1
Ob.

2

1
Cl. in Bb

2

1
Bsn

2

1
Hn in F

2

3
4

1
Tpt in C

2

1
Tbn

2

B. Tbn

Tba

Timp.

Cr. Cym.

Xyl.

Tri.

Sus. Cym.

B. Dr.

Hp

Pno

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

div.

Vc.

D. B.

182

cresc.

183

184

mp

185

186

187

188

189

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

p

p

p

mp

mp

mp

f *espress.*

cresc.

cresc.

arco *f* *espress.*

arco *mp*

The image displays a page of a musical score, measures 190 through 197. The score is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp, piano, and strings. The tempo markings are "poco rit." and "193 a tempo". The dynamics range from "pp" (pianissimo) to "ff" (fortissimo). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and articulation marks. A large diagonal watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid on the page.

This image shows a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony. The page contains multiple staves for various instruments, including Piccolo, Flutes (Fl. 1, 2), Oboes (Ob. 1, 2), Clarinets in B-flat (Cl. in Bb. 1, 2), Bassoons (Bsn. 1, 2), Horns in F (Hn in F. 1, 2, 3, 4), Trumpets in C (Tpt in C. 1, 2), Trombones (Tbn. 1, 2), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Cymbals (Cr. Cym.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Tambourine (Tamb.), Suspended Cymbal (Sus. Cym.), Snare Drum (B. Dr.), Harp (Hp.), Piano (Pno.), Violins I (Vln I), Violins II (Vln II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *f*, *mp*, *ff*, *gliss*). A large, diagonal watermark reading "PREVIEW" is overlaid across the page. The page number "198" is visible in the bottom left corner.

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

This image shows a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony. The score is written for a large ensemble of instruments, including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The instruments listed on the left side of the page are: Picc., Fl. 1/2, Ob. 1/2, Cl. in Bb 1/2, Bsn 1/2, Hn in F 1/2, 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., and D. B. The score is written in 4/4 time and features various dynamic markings such as *mf*, *ff*, and *f*. A large, diagonal watermark reading "PERUSAL SCORE" is overlaid across the page. The page number "212" is visible in the bottom left corner.

Picc.

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2 *a 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. *ff mf ff mf ff mf ff mp*

Glock.

Xyl.

Tamb. 3

Sus. Cym.

B. Dr. *ff mf ff mf*

Hp *gliss.*

Pno *(8)*

Vln I *div. 8*

Vln II *8*

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

219 220 221 222 223 224

[illegible]

232 233 234 235 236 237 *mp sub.*

Picc. *ff*

Fl. 1 2 *ff*

Ob. 1 2 *ff*

Cl. in Bb 1 2 *ff*

Bsn 1 2 *ff*

Hn in F 1 2 *mf* *ff*

3 4 *mf* *ff*

Tpt in C 1 2 *mf* *f not too much*

Tbn 1 2 *mf* *f not too much*

B. Tbn *mf* *f not too much*

Tba *mf* *f not too much*

Timp. *ff* bring out

Cr. Cym. Cr. Cym. *f*

Tam-tam Tam-tam *f*

Tamb. *ff*

Toms

B. Dr. B. Dr. *f*

Hp *gliss.*

Pno *ff*

Vln I *ff*

Vln II *ff*

Vla *ff*

Vc. *ff*

D. B. *ff*

238 239 240 241 242 243

Picc. *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Fl. 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Ob. 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Cl. in Bb 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Bsn 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Hr in F 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

3 4 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Tpt in C 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Tbn 1 2 *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

B. Tbn *mp* *f* *ff*

Tba *f* *ff*

Timp. *f* *ff*

Cr. Cym.

To Xyl.

Xyl. *mp* *f* *ff*

Tamb. *f* *ff*

Toms *f* *ff*

B. Dr. *ff*

Hp *ff*

Pno *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Vln I *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Vln II *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Vla *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

Vc. *mp sub.* *f* *ff*

D. B. *f* *ff*

244 245 246 247 248 249