

Flailing Trees and Assailing Weeds

(2018)

G. A. Marshall

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PROGRAMME NOTE

Flailing Trees and Assailing Weeds was composed and produced, using MIDI orchestral instruments, in approximately 2-days as part of a demo for that little known developer/publisher, Team17... Working to a piece of concept art, which presented a forest scene with shadowy trees and shrubbery some of this vegetation, in more foregrounded positions, looked primed and ready to attack or waiting to be sparked into life by some nearby prey. On reflection, it is unsurprising that my demo was turned down by them, the work is not at all in the style of classic Team17 soundtracks and is not really structured as a video-game composition. Instead, it is more suitable as a compact concert work with the production seeking that kind of orchestral concert performance vibe as well.

The instrumentation for this piece is single woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet (doubling Bass Clarinet) and Bassoon; a pair of brass: French Horn and Trumpet; Percussion and Timpani; String Orchestra, within which I was curious to test out the effectiveness of solo and sectional strings in the context of a mocked-up/MIDI orchestral performance. Comprising a basic primary theme, akin to "A Teddy Bear's Picnic" (not deliberate). I use simple means of extending this material for the work, such as placing the two 8-bar units: antecedent and consequent into counterpoint with one another. I also provide a secondary theme that is eventually, albeit briefly, thrown into the same mix, in counterpoint with the other melodies, in the "finale" of the work.

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Broadly, with rubato ♩. = 66 2 3 4

Flute

Oboe

Bass Clarinet in B \flat

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in B \flat

Timpani

Percussion

Xylophone

Violin I (solo)

p

Violin I

div.

pp

Violin II (solo)

p

Violin II

div.

pp

pp

Viola (solo)

p

sim.

Viola

div.

pp

Violoncello (solo)

half desks

Violoncello

pp

Contrabass (solo)

pp

Contrabass

5 6 7 8 *rit.*

Vln. (solo)

Vln. II (solo)

Vla. (solo)

Vc. (solo)

Vc.

pp (half desks) *mp*

rit.



A with mischief $\text{♩} = 92$ 10 11 12 *rit.* *a tempo* $\text{♩} = 92$

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. (solo)

Vln. II (solo)

Vla. (solo)

Vc.

poco p *p*



13 14 15 16

B. Cl.

Bsn.

21 22 23 To Cl. 24

B. Cl. *p* *subito f*

Bsn. *subito f* *p*

Timp.

Perc.

Vla. pizz. *f*

Vc. (solo) *p* *subito f* (tutti)

Vc. *subito f* (tutti)

Cb. (solo) *p* *subito f* (tutti)

Cb. *subito f* (tutti)

25 26 27 28

B. Cl. *sempre pp*

Bsn. *sempre pp*

Vc. *sempre pp*

Cb. *sempre pp*

29 30 31 32 33

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. To Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. II *open*

Vla. *arco p*

Vc. *pp*

Cb. *p*

34 35 36 37

Fl. 2

Ob. 2

B. Cl. Clarinet in Bb *p* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *mf*

Tpt. *straight mute* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. II *sim.*

Vla. *mp* *sim.*

Vc. 2

Cb. 2

38 39 40

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.



B with a bounce 42 43 44 45

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Tpt.

Xyl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

p

p

f

p

p

tr

pp

arco

p

49 50 51 52

Tpt.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

(tr)

p

cresc.

2

4

mf

mf

p

4

4

mf

p



53 54 55 56

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

2

p

p

mf

p

f

p

cresc.

2

p

p

2

mf

p

p

57 58 59 60

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

p

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

Vla.

61 62 63 64

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *p*

C with resilience
open

66 67 68

Tpt.

mf

Timp.

pp

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

69 70 71 72

Hn. *mf*

Timp. *f* *mf*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vc. (solo) *mf* solo - arco

Cb. *mf*

73 74 75 76

Bsn. *mf*

Vln. I sul pont. *f*

Vln. II sul pont. *f*

Vla. sul pont. *f*

Vc. (solo) *mf* solo - arco

Vc. *mf*

Cb. (solo) *mf* solo - arco

Cb. *mf*

77 78 79 80

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. (solo)

Cb. (solo)

Cb.

sul pont.

p

p

f *p*

f *p*



81 82 83 84

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

Vln. (solo)

Vla.

p

p

f

f

fp

fp

fp

solo - 3 div.

pp

85 86 87 88

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *pp*

Tpt. *f*

Timp.

Vln. (solo) *pp*

Vln. I *p* tutti, uni. - sul tasto

Vln. II *p* sul tasto

Vla. *pizz.*

Vc. *p*

pp

f

pp

p

p

pizz.

p

89 90 91 92

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *4*

f

nat. *2* *subito f*

sul tasto

nat. *2* *subito f*

p *f*

f *2* *nat.* *f* *2*

f *p* *arco* *f*

f *4* *f*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

sim.

f

p

f

p

f

p

f

p

f

f

arco

f

2

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 93 to 96. The Flute (Fl.) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Oboe (Ob.) part has a similar melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Violin I (Vln. I) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Violin II (Vln. II) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Viola (Vla.) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. The Contrabass (Cb.) part has a melodic line with a slur over measures 93-95 and a final note in measure 96. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *sim.* (sforzando), and *arco* (arco). The number 2 is written above the Violin I part in measure 95.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. *arco* *f*

Hn. *p* *mf*

Tpt. *f*

Timp. *(tr)* *f*

Perc. *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. *arco* *f*

Cb. *arco* *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 102, 103, and 104. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 92. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Timpani, Percussion, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. Measures 102 and 103 are marked with a '102' and '103' respectively. Measure 104 is marked with a '104'. The score features various dynamics including *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line, while the brass and percussion provide a rhythmic foundation. The Viola and Violoncello/Contrabass parts have a *mp* to *f* crescendo in measure 104.

105 106 107 108

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp *f*

p *mf* *p*

p

mp *f*

The musical score for measures 105-108 is as follows:

- Measure 105:** Flute and Oboe play a melodic line. Violin I and II play a rhythmic pattern. Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass play a sustained bass line.
- Measure 106:** Similar to measure 105, with woodwinds and strings.
- Measure 107:** Clarinet and Horn enter with a melodic line. The bass line continues.
- Measure 108:** The Clarinet and Horn play a crescendo from *mp* to *f*. The Horn also has a dynamic change from *p* to *mf* to *p*. The Timpani plays a sustained note.

109 110 111 112

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

p *mf*

Bsn.

Hn.

mf *sim.*

Tpt.

p *mf*

Timp.

f

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

sim.

Vc.

Cb.

This musical score page contains measures 109 through 112. The instruments are arranged in two systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Timpani (Timp.). The second system includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute and Oboe parts play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Clarinet and Trumpet parts have long notes with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with a *mf* marking. The Horn part has a melodic line with *mf* and *sim.* markings. The Timpani part has a single note with a *f* marking. The Violin I and II parts play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola part has a melodic line with a *sim.* marking. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

113 114 115 116

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p *mf* *p*

pp

f

2

4

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 113 through 116 of a piece. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measures 113-115 are in 4/4 time, and measure 116 is in 3/4 time. The instruments and their parts are: Flute (Fl.) plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. Oboe (Ob.) plays a similar melodic line. Clarinet (Cl.) and Trumpet (Tpt.) play a sustained harmonic line, starting at *p* in measure 113, moving to *mf* in measure 114, and returning to *p* in measure 116. Bassoon (Bsn.) plays a lower harmonic line, with a double bar line and a '2' indicating a second ending in measure 114. Horn (Hn.) plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. Timpani (Timp.) has a *pp* (pianissimo) roll starting in measure 115. Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) play a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. Viola (Vla.) plays a harmonic line, with a *f* (forte) dynamic and a '4' indicating a fourth ending in measure 116. Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) play a lower harmonic line, with a double bar line and a '2' indicating a second ending in measure 114.

E

118 119 120

Fl. *4*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. *mp*

Tpt. *f* *2*

Timp. *f*

Perc. *mf*

Xyl. *f* *2*

Vln. I *4*

Vln. II

Vla. *p* *f* *2*

Vc.

Cb.

121 122 123 124

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf

2

2

2

125 126 127 128

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

pp

Tpt.

pp

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

arco

Vc.

Cb.

This musical score page contains measures 125 through 128. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The woodwinds (Ob., Cl., Bsn., Hn., Tpt.) and strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Cb.) are in the upper half, while the percussion (Timp.) is in the lower half. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings like *pp* and *arco*. The measures are divided by vertical bar lines, and the page number 22 is in the top left corner.

129 130 131 132

Cl. *f*

Hn. *f* 2

Tpt. *f* 2

Timp.

Vln. I *f* 2

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p* pizz.

Cb. *fp* pizz.

133 134 135 136 137

Tpt. 2

Timp. *f* *p* tr

Vln. I *f* *p* *f* *f* tr

Vln. II *f* *p* *f* *f* tr

Vla. *f* *p* *f* *f*

Vc. arco *f* arco *f*

Cb. *f* *p* *f*