

Circus Music

for

Flute (doubling Piccolo)

Oboe

B-flat Clarinet

Horn in F

Bassoon

by

Craig Carnahan

Performance Note:

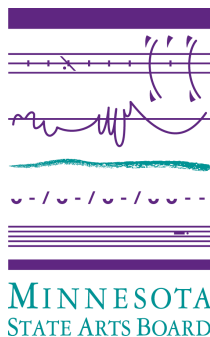
Circus Music was conceived as a Grand March that announces the beginning of a circus performance and introduces the audience to the menagerie of supporting characters: ring master, clowns, snake charmer, contortionist, lion tamer, elephant handler, and the high wire act. But this March is quirky and slightly askew. This music would not find a home as the soundtrack for a Cirque du Soleil production. Rather, it's meant to accompany the rag tag troupes of harlequins and eccentrics that tour the Midwest each summer, pitching their faded tents in a deserted field on the edge of town and providing a romanticized peek into the provocative and slightly scandalous life of the vagabond entertainer.

The music should bubble along at a comfortable gait with the exception of measures 92-112. Here, the horn and bassoon parts are leaden and laborious (announcing the arrival of the elephants), while the descending chromatic figure in the upper winds should connote the ethereal and gravity-defying trapeze and high wire acts – the voices ad lib. and quasi independent of each other.

In keeping with the spirit of the Sousa riff in the piccolo beginning at measure 142, it would be completely understandable if the performer chooses to stand.

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Duration: c. 5:45 minutes



This activity is made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Score

Circus Music

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Quirky March ♩ = 120
Shout:

♩ = 80

This system of the score includes five staves: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B♭, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The music is in 4/4 time, which changes to 2/4 time for the second measure. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The Flute part has rests in the first three measures and a 'Shout' section in the fourth measure with notes marked with accents (>) and the lyrics 'One! Two! Three! Four!'. The Oboe, Clarinet in B♭, and Horn in F parts play a melodic line starting in the second measure, marked with accents and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Bassoon part plays a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure, also marked with accents and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

This system of the score includes five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B♭ (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The music continues from the first system. The Flute part has a rest in the first measure, then plays a melodic line in the second measure marked with accents and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, and a final flourish in the third measure marked with accents and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Oboe part plays a similar melodic line in the second measure, marked with accents and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Clarinet in B♭ part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with accents throughout the system. The Horn part plays a melodic line in the second measure, marked with accents and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Bassoon part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with accents throughout the system, marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in the first measure and a forte (*f*) dynamic in the third measure.

Musical score for measures 8-10. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 8 starts with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Flute part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Oboe part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Horn part is silent.

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 11 starts with a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 12 has a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 13 is marked with a box containing the letter 'A' and has a key signature change to two sharps (F#, C#) and a time signature change to 4/4. The Flute part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Oboe part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Horn part is silent.

14

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

18

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

29

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 29 through 33. The Flute part is mostly silent, with a single note in measure 33. The Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, and Bassoon parts feature rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs. The Horn part has a simple melodic line. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at the end of measure 33. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in measures 32 and 33.

34

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

sf

sf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 34 through 37. The Flute part has a melodic line with a *sf* dynamic marking and a wavy line above it. The Oboe and B♭ Clarinet parts have rhythmic patterns with accents. The Horn part has a simple melodic line. The Bassoon part has a rhythmic pattern with accents. The time signature is 3/4. The dynamic marking *sf* is present in measures 34 and 35.

46

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

B \flat Cl. *mp* *mf*

Hn. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mp* *mf*

50

Fl. *mp* *p*

Ob. *mp*

B \flat Cl. *mp* *p*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

55

Fl. *p*

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

Hn.

Bsn. *p*

Detailed description: This musical score covers measures 55 through 58. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The piece starts in 2/4 time, changes to 4/4 at measure 56, and returns to 2/4 at measure 57. The Flute (Fl.) and Clarinet in B-flat (B \flat Cl.) parts feature eighth-note patterns with slurs. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and plays a melodic line with slurs. The Oboe (Ob.) and Horn (Hn.) parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests.

D

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B \flat Cl. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn.

Detailed description: This musical score covers measures 59 through 62. The key signature remains one flat. The piece changes to 3/4 time at measure 59 and back to 4/4 at measure 60. The Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), and Clarinet in B-flat (B \flat Cl.) parts play eighth-note patterns with slurs, marked mezzo-piano (*mp*). The Horn (Hn.) part plays dotted quarter notes, also marked *mp*. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part is silent, indicated by rests.

63

Fl.

Ob.

B^b Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

66

Fl.

Ob.

B^b Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

70

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp* *p*

B \flat Cl. *mp* *p*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn. *mp* *p*

75

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

B \flat Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mp

79

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B \flat Cl. *mf* *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn.

84

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. *>*

Hn. *>* *3*

Bsn.

87

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

B \flat Cl. *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf*

F Elephantine ♩ = 80

90

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

B \flat Cl. *f*

Hn. *f* *mf*

Bsn. *f* *mf*

Wafting freely downward ♩ = 80

95 *rall.*

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Hn.

Bsn.

rall. *a tempo*

100

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

105 *rall.*

Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

a tempo *rall.*

110

Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

122 H

Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

mp

127

Fl.
Ob.
B♭ Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

mp

132 (to Piccolo)

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

136

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

I Piccolo:

140

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

f

f

f

f

f

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 140 through 144. It features five staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The music is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature of 2/4. A box labeled 'I' is placed above the first measure. The Piccolo part is indicated by a bracket above the Flute staff. The score shows various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics are marked with 'f' (forte) in several measures. The time signature changes to 4/4 for measures 141 and 142, to 3/4 for measure 143, and back to 4/4 for measure 144.

145

Picc.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

f

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 145 through 148. It features five staves for Piccolo (Picc.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The music is in a key with two flats (B♭, E♭) and a common time signature of 3/4. The Piccolo part is indicated by a bracket above the Piccolo staff. The score shows various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics are marked with 'f' (forte) in several measures. The time signature remains 3/4 throughout this section.

149 *tr* *(to Flute)*

Picc.
Ob.
B \flat Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 149 through 152. The instruments are Piccolo, Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 in measure 150 and back to 4/4 in measure 151. A trill (tr) is indicated above the Piccolo part in measure 149. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 150. A performance instruction *(to Flute)* is written above the Piccolo staff in measure 150. The score includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

153

Fl.
Ob.
B \flat Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

mf

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 153 through 156. The instruments are Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 in measure 154 and back to 4/4 in measure 155. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in measure 153. The Flute part is mostly silent, with a few notes in measure 156. The Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts feature rhythmic patterns and melodic lines. The Bassoon part has a *mf* dynamic marking in measure 153.

♩ = 80

157

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

3

J

♩ = 120

Shout:

Flute:

One! Two! Three! Four!

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

165

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B \flat Cl. *f* *mf*

Hn.

Bsn. *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 165, 166, and 167. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The Flute (Fl.) part has a dynamic of *f* in measure 165 and *mf* in measure 167. The Oboe (Ob.) part has a dynamic of *mf* in measure 166. The Bass Clarinet (B \flat Cl.) part has a dynamic of *f* in measure 165 and *mf* in measure 166. The Horn (Hn.) part is silent. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part has a dynamic of *f* in measure 165 and *mf* in measure 166. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

168

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

B \flat Cl. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 168, 169, and 170. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The Flute (Fl.) part has a dynamic of *ff* in measure 170. The Oboe (Ob.) part has a dynamic of *ff* in measure 170. The Bass Clarinet (B \flat Cl.) part has a dynamic of *ff* in measure 170. The Horn (Hn.) part has a dynamic of *ff* in measure 170. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part has a dynamic of *ff* in measure 170. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.