

Stephen McNeff

Monsters (of the Sacred Grove)

Figures in the hidden garden of Duke Orsini of Bomarzo
for Wind Orchestra

1. Into the Sacred Grove

2. The Three Graces

3. Pegasus the Winged Horse

4. The Orcus

5. The Wrestling Giants

6. The Sleeping Nymph

7. The Lions Battle the Dragon

8. The Leaning House

9 The Temple of Eternity

Monsters was commissioned in 2024 by the *Royal Air Force Music Services* in collaboration with the *United States Air Force Band, Washington D.C.* the *United States Air Force Band in Europe* and the *Luftwaffenmusikkorps, Münster.*

The premiere was given by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force with guest musicians from the United States Air Force Band Europe and the Luftwaffenmusikkorps, Münster, on the 25 April, 2025, at the Regent Hall, London, conducted by Squadron Leader, Chris l'Anson.

Instrumentation

Flutes 1 & 2

Piccolo (Flute 3)

Oboes 1 & 2

Clarinet in E flat

Clarinets 1, 2 & 3 in B flat

Bass Clarinet

Bassoons 1 & 2

Alto Saxophones 1 & 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Horns 1, 2, 3 & 4 in F

Trumpets 1, 2 & 3 in B flat

Tenor Trombones 1 & 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

String Bass

Timpani

Percussion (3 players)

1. Glockenspiel, Tam Tam, Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Antique Cymbal, Lion's Roar, Hi-Hat Cymbal, Xylophone.

2. Tam Tam, Triangle, Wind Chimes, Vibraphone, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum, Cowbell, Temple Blocks.

3. Suspended Cymbal, Tambourine, Clash Cymbals, Snare Drum, Triangle, Wood Block, Tom Toms, Tam Tam, Military Drum, Bass Drum.

MC0234 Set of Parts and Full Score

MC0234C Full Score

Duration c: 24 minutes

Monsters (of the Sacred Grove)

Figures in the hidden garden of Duke Orsini of Bomarzo

The *Garden of Bomarzo* was created by Duke Pier Francesco Orsini, patron of the arts, during the mid-16th century to cope with his grief upon the death of his wife Giulia Farnese. The design of this mysterious fantasy world is attributed to the architect Pirro Ligorio, with sculptures by Simone Moschino.

Known as the Park of Monsters, it is situated in a wooded valley beneath the castle of Orsini in Bomarzo, near Rome in Italy. The park was not intended to please, but to astonish, and like many Mannerist works stems from the many larger than life grotesque sculptures and small buildings located amongst the natural vegetation. During the 19th and early 20th centuries the gardens fell into neglect and became wildly overgrown until being brought to wider attention again in 1938 by the surrealist painter, Salvador Dali. A restoration programme was implemented which was completed in the 1970s. Today the garden is a major tourist attraction.

The nine movements that form "**Monsters**" depict both the romance and strangeness of the garden and the sculptures hewn out of the volcanic rock, thus offering a musical glimpse into a fantastic world that was hidden for so long.

Stephen McNeff
November, 2024.

Maecenas

Monsters!

(of the Sacred Grove)

Stephen McNeff

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14

Fl. 1 & 2

pp *f* *f* *sonore* *ff* >

Picc.

p *f*

Ob. 1 & 2

pp *f* *f* *sonore* *ff* >

E♭ Cl.

f *sonore* *ff* >

1

f *sonore* *ff* >

Cl.

f *sonore* *ff* >

2 & 3

f *sonore* *f* *sonore* *ff* >

B. Cl.

p *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

Bsn. 1 & 2

p

A. Saxs. 1 & 2

f *sonore* *f* *sonore* *ff* >

T. Sax.

f *sonore* *ff* >

B. Sax.

1 & 2

p *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

Hns.

mf < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

3 & 4

mf < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

1

straight mute *pp* *f*

Tpts.

straight mute *pp* *f*

2 & 3

pp *f*

Tbn. 1 & 2

mf < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

B. Tbn.

mf < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

Euph.

f *sonore* *ff* >

Tba.

p *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

Str. B.

p *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *mf* < *f* *p* < *f* >

Timp.

f > *p* *p* < *mf* *p* < *mf* *p* < *f* > *p*

1

Glockenspiel *p* *f*

Perc. 2

3

S.Cymb *pp* Medium soft sticks *p* < *mf* *p* < *f* *p* < *f* >

[illegible]

[illegible]

3. Pegasus the Winged Horse

Brillante $\text{♩} = 60$

Fl. 1 & 2 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Picc. *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Ob. 1 & 2 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

E♭ Cl. *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

1 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Cl. 2 & 3 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

B. Cl. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Bsn. 1 & 2 *p* *f* *p* *f*

A. Saxs. 1 & 2 *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *f* *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

B. Sax. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

1 & 2 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Hns. 3 & 4 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

1 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

2 & 3 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Tpts. *p* *f* *p* *f*

2 & 3 *p* *f* *p* *f*

Tbn. 1 & 2 *p* *f* *p* *f*

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Euph. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Tba. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Str. B. *p* *f* *(p)* *f* *p* *f*

Timp.

Glockenspiel *ff*

Perc. 2 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

3 *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

This page of a musical score is for a large orchestra. It features staves for the following instruments:

- Fl. 1 & 2
- Picc.
- Ob. 1 & 2
- E♭ Cl.
- 1
- Cl. 2 & 3
- B. Cl.
- Bsn. 1 & 2
- A. Sax. 1 & 2
- T. Sax.
- B. Sax.
- 1 & 2
- Hns. 3 & 4
- 1
- 2 & 3
- Tbn. 1 & 2
- B. Tbn.
- Euph.
- Tba.
- Str. B.
- Timp.
- 1
- Perc. 2
- 3

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (f, ff, p), and articulation marks. The key signature is one flat (B♭), and the time signature is 2/2. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple staves for different instruments.

Wheightly ♩ = 64

rit. a tempo rit. a tempo rit. Moving very slightly ♩ = 72

Fl. 1 & 2 TACET

Picc. TACET

Ob. 1 & 2 TACET

E♭ Cl.

1

Cls.

2 & 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

A. Saxes. 1 & 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1 & 2

Hns.

3 & 4

1

Tpts.

2 & 3

Tbn. 1 & 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Str. B.

Timp.

Tam Tam

1

Bass drum

Perc. 2

3

Suspended Cymbal

The image shows a page of a musical score, numbered 14. It contains staves for various instruments and sections, including:

- Fl. 1 & 2**: Flute parts.
- Picc.**: Piccolo part.
- Ob. 1 & 2**: Oboe parts.
- E♭ Cl.**: E-flat Clarinet part.
- 1**, **Cls.**, **2 & 3**: Clarinet parts.
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet part.
- Bsn. 1 & 2**: Bassoon parts.
- A. Saxs. 1 & 2**: Alto Saxophone parts.
- T. Sax.**: Tenor Saxophone part.
- B. Sax.**: Baritone Saxophone part.
- 1 & 2**, **Hns.**, **3 & 4**: Horn parts.
- 1**, **Tpts.**, **2 & 3**: Trumpet parts.
- Tbn. 1 & 2**, **B. Tbn.**: Trombone parts.
- Euph.**: Euphonium part.
- Tba.**: Tuba part.
- Str. B..**: String Bass part.
- Timp.**: Timpani part.
- Perc. 2**, **3**: Percussion parts, including Susp. Cymbal, Bass Drum, Tom Toms, and Tam Tam.

The score features dynamic markings such as *f* (forte), *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *sfz* (sforzando). It also includes articulation marks like accents and slurs, and performance instructions like "solo" and "arco". The notation is dense, with many notes, rests, and other musical symbols.

[illegible]

6. The Sleeping Nymph

Delicatamente ♩ = 58 poco rit. a tempo poco rit. a tempo poco rit. a tempo

Fl. 1 & 2 *pp dolce* *<mf>* *pp* *<mf>* *pp<f>* *pp<f>* *pp* *pp* to Flute

Picc. *pp* *pp*

Ob. 1 & 2 *pp<f>*

E♭ Cl. *pp<f>* *pp<f>*

1 *pp dolce* *<mf>* *pp* *<mf>* *pp<f>* *pp<f>* *pp* *pp*

Clars. 2 & 3 *pp<f>* *pp<f>* *pp*

B. Cl. *pp<f>* *pp<f>* *pp* *pp*

Bsn. 1 & 2 *pp dolce* *<mf>* *pp* *<mf>* *pp<f>* *pp<f>* *pp* *pp*

A. Saxes. 1 & 2 solo *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *p<mf>*

T. Sax. *pp* *pp* *mp*

B. Sax. *pp*

1 & 2 *pp dolce* *<mf>* *pp* *<mf>*

Hns. 3 & 4

1 Tpts. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1 & 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Str. B.

Timp.

1 Perc. 2 3

rit. a tempo

10

Fl. 1 & 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 & 2

E♭ Cl.

1

Clars.

2 & 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

A. Saxs. 1 & 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1 & 2

Hns.

3 & 4

1

Tpts.

2 & 3

Tbn. 1 & 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Str. B..

Timp.

1

Perc. 2

3

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp* *pp*

mf *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

p *mf* *p* *f* *pp* *tutti* *pp* *pp* *pp*

p *mf* *p* *f* *pp* *pp* *pp*

mf *pp* *pp* *pp*

pp *pp* *pp* *pp*

con sord *pp* *con sord* *pp* *pp* *pp*

pizz *pp* *pp* *pp*

Fl. 1 & 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 & 2

E♭ Cl.

1

Cl. 2

2 & 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

A. Saxs. 1 & 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1 & 2

Hns.

3 & 4

1

Tpts.

2 & 3

Tbn. 1 & 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Str. B.

Timp.

1

Perc. 2

3

Snare Drum

Military Drum (or low Tom Tom)

8

Fl. 1 & 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 & 2

a.2.

E♭ Cl.

1

Cls.

2 & 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

a.2.

A. Saxs. 1 & 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1 & 2

a.2. senza sord

Hns.

3 & 4

a.2. senza sord

1

Tpts.

2 & 3

Tbn. 1 & 2

B. Tbn.

senza sord

Euph.

Tba.

Str. B..

Timp.

1

Perc. 2

Snare Drum

3

Military Drum

f *mf* *ff*

[illegible]

[illegible]

Tranquillo ♩ = 64

Fl. 1 & 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 & 2

E♭ Cl.

1

Cl. 1

2 & 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

A. Saxs. 1 & 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

1 & 2

Hns.

3 & 4

1

Tpts.

2 & 3

Tbn. 1 & 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Str. B..

Timp.

1

Perc. 2

3

Suspended Cymbal

This page of a musical score is for a symphony orchestra. It includes staves for the following instruments:

- Fl. 1 & 2
- Picc.
- Ob. 1 & 2
- E♭ Cl.
- 1
- Cl.
- 2 & 3
- B. Cl.
- Bsn. 1 & 2
- A. Saxs. 1 & 2
- T. Sax.
- B. Sax.
- 1 & 2
- Hns.
- 3 & 4
- 1
- Tpts.
- 2 & 3
- Tbn. 1 & 2
- B. Tbn.
- Euph.
- Tba.
- Str. B.
- Timp.
- Glockenspiel
- 1
- Perc. 2
- 3

The score is divided into two main sections: **rit.** (ritardando) and **a tempo**. The **rit.** section includes measures 10 through 14, and the **a tempo** section includes measures 15 through 19. The score features various dynamic markings such as *pp* (pianissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *p* (piano). It also includes performance instructions like *a.2.* (second ending), *solo*, and *p espress.* (piano, expressive). The notation includes complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and rests.

