

OLIVER KNUSSEN

THE WAY TO CASTLE YONDER

POT-POURRI FOR ORCHESTRA

FROM THE OPERA

‘HIGGLETY PIGGLETY POP!’

OP. 21a

(1988-90)

FABER *ff* MUSIC

PROGRAMME NOTE

The Way to Castle Yonder is a concise digest of orchestral interludes for my second operatic collaboration with Maurice Sendak, *Higglety Pigglety Pop!*, which is a theatrical requiem for his dog, Jennie, in the frame of a 'quest' opera. Castle Yonder is the animals' theatrical heaven of Sendak's imagination. The three continuous sections are:

1. *The Journey to the Big White House*, on a horse-drawn milk wagon driven by a cat-milkman. The music is based on Jennie's aria which opens the opera. 'The wagon moves off and the show curtain closes. After a while, the pig is seen peeking out mysteriously from an arbour. He makes himself scarce when the milk wagon appears, crossing the stage in front of the show curtain'.
2. *Kleine Trauermusik*: 'A little orchestral meditation while Jennie dreams of lions' - a chorale with another variant of Jennie's aria.
3. *The Ride to Castle Yonder*: 'Chimes begin to sound in the distance. The characters climb on the Lion's back. Mother Goose disappears as the bells get louder. The Lion springs forward, and the show curtain closes'. This final section grows from these images in reverse order, and the arrival at Castle Yonder briefly harks back to the *Trauermusik* chorale.

OK

The first performance of *The Ride to Castle Yonder* was given by the English Chamber Orchestra conducted by Stuart Bedford on 15 June 1988 at the Maltings, Snape as part of the 42nd Aldeburgh Festival

The first complete performance of *The Way to Castle Yonder* was given by the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas on 31 January 1991 at the Barbican Hall, London

The Way to Castle Yonder is recorded by the London Sinfonietta conducted by the composer on Deutsche Grammophon CD 449 572-2

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for Belinda and Colin Matthews

ORCHESTRA

3 Flutes

Oboe

Cor Anglais*

3 B \flat Clarinets*

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

4 Horns*

3 Trombones

Percussion (4 players)

1. Timpani, 2 Castanets, Tubular Bells (Chimes)**
2. Triangle, Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal, Vibraphone (no motor required), Timpani (shared with 1.)
3. Sleigh bells, Tam-tam, Suspended Cymbal
4. Tam-tam (shared with 3.), Suspended Cymbal, Glockenspiel, Tubular Bells (Chimes)**,
Side Drum (without snares), Triangle, Vibraslap, Bass Drum, Castanets

Piano

Celesta

Harp

6 Violins I

6 Violins II

4 Violas

4 Cellos

4 Double basses

* Written at concert pitch (in C) in the score

** NB: Two sets of Tubular Bells (Chimes) are required

The strings may be doubled at the conductor's discretion. If this is done, it is suggested for convenience that the assignment of the additional desks duplicate the layout given in the parts, thus in the violins desk 4 = desk 1; desk 5 = desk 2; desk 6 = desk 3; in the violas and cellos desk 3 = desk 1; desk 4 = desk 2. Passages marked 'solo' or otherwise designated for a single player should not be doubled. If only 6 Basses are available the assignment of the additional players is left to the conductor.

Duration: approximately 8 minutes

THE WAY TO CASTLE YONDER

Oliver Knussen
Op. 21a

I The Journey to the Big White House

Andantino ♩ = 66c.

Flutes 1, 2, 3

Oboe

Cor Anglais

Clarinets 1, 2, 3

Bassoon

Contrabassoon

Horns 1, 2, 3, 4

Trombones 1, 2, 3

TIMPANI

Percussion 1, 2, 3, 4

Piano

Celesta

Harp

Andantino ♩ = 66c.

allarg.

a tempo (♩ = 66c.)

Violins 1 muted

Violins 2 muted

Violas div.

Violoncelli muted div.

Doublebasses div.

div.

ppp

p

molto dim.

pp espr.

mp

sim.

pizz.

table loco

pp

ppp

molto dim.

pp espr.

mp

sim.

solo 1

solo 2

solo 3

pp arco

pp

mp

sim.

solo 1

solo 2

solo 3

p

mp

p

mp

flaut.

molto allarg. a tempo ♩ = 75c.

poco a poco accel. (♩ = 113c.)

Fl. 1 & 2: *pp*

Ob.: *p*

C.A. 1 & 2: *pp*

Cl. 1 & 2: *mp* *p* *pp* echotone

Hn. 1 & 3: *pp* *p* *mp*

Perc. 1: CASTANETS higher lower *pp*

Perc. 2: TRIANGLE *pp* TAMBOURINE *pp*

Perc. 3: SLEIGH BELLS *pp*

Pno.: *p*

Cel.: *p* *pp*

Hp.: *p* *pp*

molto allarg. a tempo ♩ = 75c.

poco a poco accel. (♩ = 113c.)

Vlns. 1 (muted): *pp* *p* sul tasto

Vlns. 2 (muted): *pp* *p* sul tasto pizz. *p* 2 soli arco sul tasto *ppp* *pp* ma espr. *ppp* *pp*

Vas. div.: arco sul tasto *pp* *p* 4 soli (sul tasto) *ppp* *pp* ma espr.

Vlc. (muted) 3 soli: tutti div. *pp* *p* *pp*

Db. 3 soli: tutti div. *pp* *p* *pp*