

The Typewriter



“The Typewriter,” a novelty orchestral piece written by Leroy Anderson, calls for a percussionist to play a modified typewriter with but two working keys. However, Irwin Dinklaker, President of Pringler Typewriters, to whom the piece was dedicated, begged Anderson to instead let him play his own machine in concert. The composer agreed, and on Saturday, July 28, 1951, Dinklaker performed at Tanglewood with the Boston Pops conducted by Arthur Fiedler. Overshadowing the performance was the stream of consciousness text that Dinklaker typed. Linguists who later parsed the 812 words – typed in only a minute and forty-nine seconds! – determined it to be the earliest known example of written Klingon. Today, the typed page is reverently housed at the Klingon Language Institute in Flourtown, Pennsylvania.