

Gwyneth Walker

The Magic Oboe

for Oboe and Orchestra



“Enchantment”

“Tricks”

“Evening Magic”

Composed for the Susquehanna Symphony Orchestra
Sheldon Bair, Music Director
and especially for Oboist, Judith Famous

Premiere: May 10, 2003
Havre de Grace, Maryland

Duration: 16 minutes

Instrumentation: Oboe, Flute, Bassoon, Trumpet, Percussion, Strings

Enchantment – the orchestra creates gentle, flowing patterns as if casting a spell of wonder and magic, The oboe enters with a theme of scalar descents, embellished with grace notes. The orchestra and oboe interweave their patterns.

Tricks – the conductor becomes a Magician, proudly wearing a Magician's hat. The oboe attempts to conjure up a rabbit from the conductor's hat. Aha! The rabbit appears, and joins in conducting the orchestra!

Now, the oboe becomes the Magician's Assistant, volunteering to be sawed in half (!). The oboe takes a seat within the orchestra (i.e., within the sawing box). A "sawing theme" is played in the lower strings. Vigorous bowing ensues. A cry of terror is heard from the oboe. The sawing continues...but, miraculously, the oboe survives and emerges intact.

The Magician now produces a large egg, proudly displayed. However, this is a sleight-of-hand trick. The egg vanishes, reappears in various places within the orchestra, and makes a surprise final appearance.

Evening Magic – sounds at dusk, a serenade, the sunset, stars, shooting stars. The quiet of evening unfolds. Ultimately, the magical brilliance of the night lends its energy to the music.

Suggested props for "Tricks"

Small table near Conductor, for props

Magician's Hat (for the Conductor)

Large stuffed rabbit mounted on a pole to be raised up for audience viewing

Small hand saw

Cloth or scarf on table

6 large plastic eggs (such as the kind which came with "L'Eggs" stockings)

Oboe Solo

The Magic Oboe

for Oboe Solo and Chamber Orchestra

1. "Enchantment"

Gwyneth Walker

Gently flowing, as if casting a spell of wonder and magic

♩ = 66

6 A

p mf

9 p mf p mf

12 B 4 p mf p

19 C f p f 3 6 6 p

23 f p

25 D 6 6 6 f p 2

30 E 2 f p

36 f 3 6 6 p mf 6 6

39 F 3 p f p

Oboe Solo

45 **G**
p *f* *p*
6 6

48 *f* *p* *f*
6

51 **H**
p *mp* *p*
3 6 6 6

54 *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* **I**
6 6 6 6

57 *p* *f*
6 6 6 6

60 *p* *f*
6 6 6 6

62 *p* *f*
6 6 6 6

64 *p* *f* *p*
6 6 6 6

67 **J** rit. to end
p *f* *dim.* *p*

71 (rit.) *f* *dim.*
6 6 6

2. "Tricks" a. *The Rabbit in the Hat*

With bravura

$\text{♩} = 160$ 6

A *mf* *f* *tr*

13 *mf* *tr* *f* **B**

20 *tr* *p* **C** 8

34 *mf* *f* *p* **D**

39 *mf* *f*

E (The Oboist attempts to conjure a rabbit from the [conductor's] hat. Oboist may play towards conductor and hat.)

46 *p* *mp*

47 *p* *mf* start slowly and accel.

48 *p* *f* *p* a few more times

F a tempo $\text{♩} = 160$

49 *cresc.* *f* *rit.* *grandly* 2 *very grandly* *tr* *sfp*

G In celebration

56 *f*

60 (h)

66

b. Sawing in Half

(The Oboist now becomes the "Magician's assistant" stepping forward to be "sawed in half.")

Freely, slowly (not conducted)

poco accel.

p daintily, yet with bravery

poco cresc.

poco accel.

A ♩ = 88 with energy

tr

f in terror!

10 **B**

f

18

23 **C**

f

28

p

33 *cresc.*

37 **D**

f

45

E

51

p < f

(Oboist stands up triumphantly having survived the "sawing".)

c. "The Vanishing Egg"

A at a triumphant tempo!

B

♩ = 120 **7**

f triumphantly

13

17

mf

Oboist finds and holds up the 'missing' egg, which was perhaps hidden on the music stand

22

f

Music in celebration of finding the egg

D a tempo ♩ = 120 Triumphantly

29

f

36

E

40

45

49

Oboe Solo 3. "Evening Magic"

Sounds at Dusk

With gentle motion, as the fading of daylight

A Slowly, freely **B**

C

(Bsn. plays)

(Tpt. plays)

(Fl. plays)

♩ = 100 **6**

Serenade

D ♩ = 120 Flowing

3

11

mf cantabile

20

27 **E**

34 **F**

p

42 **G**

mf

54

60 **H**

2

68 **I**

p

76 **J**

tr *p* < *mf* **K** *p* < *mf* *p* < *mf*

89

p ————— *f*

Oboe Solo

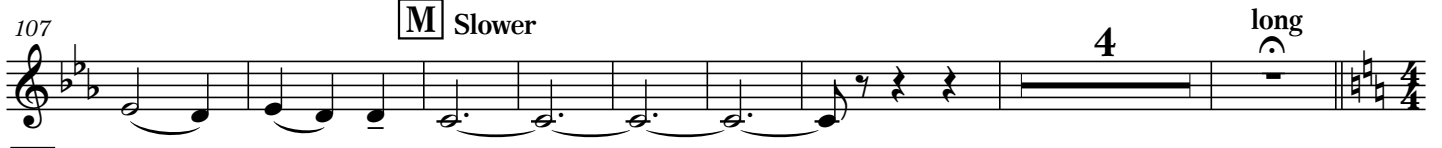
94



99 **L**



107 **M** Slower



N Quickly, gathering energy **O** ♩ = 160

119 8 (Tpt. plays) 4



133



137



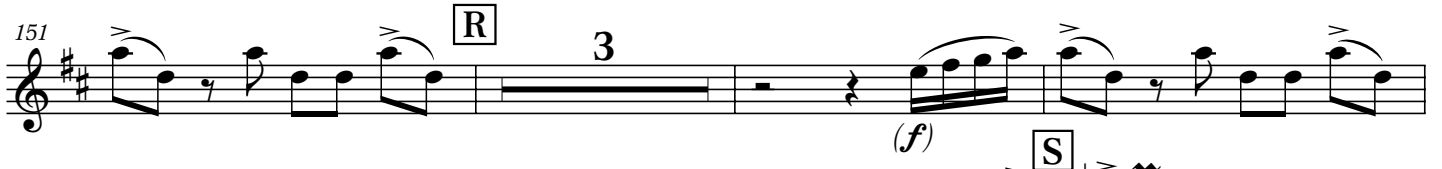
142 accel. **Q** more quickly ♩ = 92



147



151 **R** 3



157 **S**



161



165 **T** 3



172 *f*

U with energy ♩ = 100

V Slowly ♩ = ca. 66

176 **11** *f*

191

195 rit. **W** Start slowly and accel. *p*

199 (accel.) *cresc.*

X a tempo ♩ = 92

203 *f*

207

211

215 *f* *p* *ff*