

La Belle Dame sans merci

**Poem by John Keats
music by Ian McQueen**

for high voice and small ensemble

La Belle Dame sans Merci...
was commissioned for the
Composers Ensemble Songbook
for inclusion in a concert given as part of Almeida
Opera, 14th July 1996
at the Almeida Theatre, London.

high voice,
clarinet in Eb, clarinet in Bb,
viola, 'cello, and double bass

Preview File Only

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clarinet in Eb, clarinet in Bb,
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Duration: ca 6 minutes

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for Mary Wiegold and the Composers Ensemble

La Belle Dame sans merci

JOHN KEATS (1820)

IAN McQUEEN (1996)

I: Lugubrious, but moving ♩ = 69

separate clarinets spacially as much as possible

3

p lamenting

0
0

sul pont. ord.

fp > *pp* *pp* < *mp* *p:pp* *ppp* sost., senza vib.

sul pont. ord.

fp > *pp* *pp* < *mp* *p:pp* *ppp* sost., senza vib.

sul pont. ord.

fp > *pp* *pp* < *mp* *p:pp* *ppp* sost., senza vib.

gtr.

4

V.

E♭ Cl. *pp*

Cl. *p* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *vib.* *sul pont.* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mp: pppsub.* *vib.* *sul pont.* *p* *mf*

Db. *mp* *vib.* *sul pont.* *p* *mf*

eco *ppp*

7

INTERLOCUTOR:

V. *pp espress.* *ppp*

Oh what can ail thee, knight - at - arms, A - -

E♭ Cl.

Cl. *p* *mp: ppp*

Vla. *ppp senza vib.* *sul tasto, non trem.* *m. ord.* *p poco pesante*

Vc. *ppp senza vib.* *sul tasto, non trem.* *m. ord.* *p poco pesante*

Db. *ppp senza vib.* *sul tasto, non trem.* *m. ord.* *p poco pesante (vib.)*

9 *pp* *p* *pp* *cresc.*

V. *pp* *p* *pp* *cresc.*

- lone and pale - ly loi - ter - ing? The sedge has wi - thered

E♭ Cl. *mp* *mp* *ppp*

Cl. *p* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *mp* modo ord.

Db. *ppp* *mp*

11 *pp* *secco* II: Chattering ♩ = 96 *fp*

V. *pp* *secco* *fp*

from the lake, — And no birds sing. bell-like attacks Oh

E♭ Cl. *pp* bell-like attacks

Cl. *pp* bell-like attacks 3 3

Vla. *pp* *p: sfz* bell-like attacks (harmonics ad lib)

Vc. *pp* *p: sfz* bell-like attacks (harmonics ad lib)

Db. *pp* *loco* *p: sfz*

14 *ff*

V. what can ail thee, knight - at - arms,

E♭ Cl. *p cresc.* - - - - - *f*

Cl. *p cresc.* - - - - - *f*

Vla. *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

Vc. *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

Db. *cresc.* - - - - - *f*

16 *mp sfz* *pp inconsolable*

V. So hag - gard and so woe be - gone? take time!

E♭ Cl. *p* *pp*

Cl. *p* *pp*

Vla. *f* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp*

Db. *f* *pp*

18 *pp delicato* *mf* 5

V. The squir - rel's gra - na - ry is full, And the

E♭ Cl. *p poco giocoso* *pp* *pp*

Cl. *ppp*

Vla. *mp poco a poco dimin.*

Vc. *mp poco a poco dimin.*

Db. *mp poco a poco dimin.*

20 *sfz* **III: Slithering** ♩ = 108 *p febrile!*

V. har - vest's done! I see a

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *ppp sempre ma espress*

Vc. *pp* *ppp* *ppp sempre ma espress*

Db. *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

23
 V. *mp* \rightarrow *pp* *p cresc.*
 li - ly on thy brow with an - guish, an - - -

E♭ Cl.
 Cl.

Vla. *tr*
 Vc. *3* *3*
 Db. *ppp sempre ma espress*

25
 V. *fp* *sensuous!* *mf* *ppp* *pp*
 - guish an - - guish moist and fe - - ver

E♭ Cl.
 Cl.

Vla. *tr*
 Vc. *mf:sf* *f:sf*
 Db. *3*

27 *ppp* *pp dolce espress.* 7

V. dew; And on thy cheek a fa - ding rose — Fast

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *o*(quasi) *ppp*

Vc. *ppp piangando* *pp*

Db. *wide vib.* *ppp*

IV: Largo + Mesto ♩ = 50

30 *ppp* KNIGHT: *heavy and weary* *pp leggiero, "sing-song"*

V. with -'reth too. "I met a la - dy in the meads, — Full beau - ti - ful a

E♭ Cl. *ppp sost., ma non legato*

Cl. *ppp sost., ma non legato*

Vla.

Vc.

Db. *glisa* *ppp*

(*ppp*) *sost., ma non legato*

34 *p* *tender* *lascivious!*
 V. fae - ry's child, Her hair was long— her foot was light, her

più legato
 Eb Cl. *pp* *ppp*
 Cl. *pp* *ppp*
 Vla
 Vc.
 Db. *pp*

mad, but controlled!

V: Allegro Molto ♩ = 120 (♩ = 80)

39 *pf* (3+2)
 V. And her eyes were wild.

Eb Cl. *ppp* (3+2) *f* *scorrevole* 7:6 *mf* *scorrevole*
 Cl. *ppp* (3+2) *f*
 Vla (3+2) *f: sfz* *pizz. ^*
 Vc. *f: sfz* *pizz. ^*
 Db. *ppp* (3+2) *f: sfz* *pizz. ^*

43 *p* 9

V. "I made a

E♭ Cl. *mf* *p* *ppp* *tr*

Cl. *ff* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vla. *f: sfz* *p* *p* *mp* *gliss.*

Vc. *f: sfz* *p* *p* *mp* *gliss.*

Db. *f: sfz* *p* *p* *mp* *gliss.*

47 *mf* (2+3) *ritmico*

V. gar - land for her head, — And brace - lets too, and fra - grant zone —

E♭ Cl. *tr* (2+3)

Cl. (2+3) *pp leggiero, giocoso*

Vla. *pp ritmico*

Vc. *pp ritmico*

Db. *pp ritmico*

10

51 (3+2) *p* *mf* *4:5*

V. She look'd at me as she did

E♭ Cl. *tr* *ppp* *tr* *ppp*

Cl. *pp* *p*

Vla. (3+2) *gliss.* *sfz* *pp*

Vc. *gliss.* *sfz* *mp* *arco* *pp*

Db. *gliss.* *sfz* *p*

54 *p* *p* *f* *p* *mp:sfz*

V. love, And made sweet moan, moan

E♭ Cl. *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *pp sempre*

Cl. *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *pp sempre*

Vla. *ppp* *arco*

Vc. *arco* *pizz.*

Db.

VI: Presto Deciso ♩ = 168

59 *pp* *sosperando*

V. *moan.* *gliss.*

E♭ Cl. *fp*

Cl. *ppp* *fp*

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *fp* *sfz:p* *sempre senza vib.*

Vc. *pp* *ppp* *fp* *sfz:p* *sempre senza vib.*

Db.

63 *f con energia* *ff*

V. I set her_ on_ my pa - cing steed

E♭ Cl. *f* *ff* *mf* *energico* *f* *3* *energico* *3*

Cl. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *3* *3*

Vla. *fp* *sfz:p* *f*

Vc. *fp* *sfz:p* *f*

Db. *pizz.* *f marcato*

67 *p*

V. — And no - thing else saw all day long, ————— For side - ways,

E♭ Cl. *p* 3 3 3

Cl. *p* 3 3 3

Vla. *sfz p fp*

Vc. *sfz p fp*

Db. *marcato p mp*

71 *pp*

V. side - ways would she lean, For side - ways, side - ways

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *mp pp*

Vc. *mp pp*

Db. *pp f: sfz* snap pizz.

f: sfz *p* *leggiero, distracted, "little girl"*

74

V. would she lean, _____ and sing a fae - ry's song, a fae - ry's song,

E♭ Cl. *mp* *ppp* *p: sfz*

Cl. *mp* *ppp* *p: sfz*

Vla. *fp* *p: sfz*

Vc. *fp* *p: sfz*

Db. pizz. ord. *p* *p: sfz*

77

V. — fae - ry's, fae - ry's song.

E♭ Cl. *fp* *pp: sfz* *poco sfz* *ppp* (quasi)

Cl. *fp* *pp: sfz* *poco sfz* *ppp* (quasi)

Vla. *fp* *pp: sfz* *poco sfz* *ppp* *p: pp* (quasi) sul pont.

Vc. *fp* *pp: sfz* *poco sfz* *ppp* *p: pp* (quasi) sul pont.

Db. *f* *pp* *arco* *pp poco sfz* *ppp* *p: pp* (quasi) sul pont.

VII: Dancing ♩ = 100

82

p happily

V. She found me roots of re-lish sweet And ho-ney wild, and

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *f: sfz* *mf* *f*

Vc. *f: sfz* *mf* *f*

Db. *f: sfz* *mf* *f* *sfz*

85

f joyous

V. man-na dew, And sure in lan-guage strange she

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *f* *sfz* *ff*

Vc. *f* *sfz* *ff*

Db. *f* *ff*

Slow and rhapsodic ♩ = 50

88 *mp ecstatic*

V. *mp* said "Wei - la - la lu - - la lei li, _____

E♭ Cl. *pp: sfz*

Cl. *pp: sfz*

Vla. *fp* *ppp* *p*

Vc. *loco* *sul G (suoni reali).* *sul G. gliss in harmonics* *repeat* *sul D.*

Db. *fp* *ppp* *p*

91 *mp* *pp* *p*

V. Wei - - la - la _____ lu - la le - - i li" _____

E♭ Cl. *ppp più dolce* *repeat: rippling* *simile*

Cl. *ppp più dolce*

Vla. *ppp* *p*

Vc. *sul A.* *simile* *p: sfz*

Db. *sul A.* *ppp* *p*

VIII: Stealthily $\text{♩} = 69$

16

93 *pp cherishing* *p weary; quasi parlando*

V. ("I love thee true!") She

E♭ Cl. *pp sempre*

Cl. *ppp pp ppp pp*

Vla. *ppp simile* *pp m. ord.* *pp ritmico*

Vc. *ppp simile* *pp m. ord.* *pp ritmico*

Db. *ppp* *ppp pp ppp pp* *pp*

97 *exhausted* *pp mp*

V. took me toher el-fin grot, And there she gazed and sigh'd full sore

E♭ Cl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Vla. *mf* *pp* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *p*

Db. *mp* *p*

102

pp *manic* *ppp* *p* 3

V. *pp* *ppp* *p*

And there I shut her wild, wild eyes with kiss-es four

E♭ Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *pp* *p* *arco* *solo*

Vc. *pp* *arco*

Db. *mf* *molto*

IX: Very Warm & Flexible ♩ = 60 - 74

107

dolce *pp molto sost.* *ppp*

E♭ Cl. *dolce* *pp molto sost.* *ppp*

Cl. *dolce* *pp molto sost.* *ppp*

Vla. *espress.* *f* *ppp* *espress.* *p* *mp* *ppp*

Vc. *dolce* *pp molto sost.* *ppp*

Db. *pizz.* *arco* *espress.* *pp*

114 *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *sfz*

V. And there she lul - led me a - sleep And there I dream'd, ah!

E♭ Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *pp* *mp* *pp* *espress.*

Vc. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *espress.*

Db. *p* *ppp* *pp*

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120 *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp*

V. woe be-tide! The la-test dream I e-ver dream'd

E♭ Cl. *p* *ppp colla voce* *ppp* *dolciss.*

Cl. *p* *ppp colla voce*

Vla. *pp* *mp: ppp sub.* *pppp* *espress.*

Vc. *p* *ppp subito* *pppp*

Db. *p* *ppp subito* *pppp*

X: Misterioso ♩ = 76

125 *ppp*

V. *ppp* 3
on the cold hill side.

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. trem. sul pont. modo ord 3
sfz poco *fp* *pp misterioso*

Vc. solo sul pont. 9:8 3
sfz poco *pp*

Db. trem. sul pont. modo ord 3
sfz poco *fp* *pp misterioso*

129 *p*
appalled

V. *p* 3
I saw pale kings and prin - ces

E♭ Cl. *f*

Cl. *f*

Vla. 3 sul pont. *fp*

Vc.

Db. 3 sul pont. *fp*

131 *f*

V. *mp: sfz*
too _____ Pale_____

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. m. ord. *pp* sul pont. *fp*

Vc. *f* sul pont. 9:8 *pp delicato* *mf* *pp*

Db. m. ord. *pp* sul pont. *fp*

133 *f: sfz*

V. war - - - riors, death - - - pale *sfz*

E♭ Cl. *f: sfz*

Cl. *f: sfz*

Vla. m. ord. 3 *pp* sul pont. *mp: sfz-pp*

Vc. sul pont. 9:8 9:8 *mf* *p* *mf*

Db. m. ord. 3 *pp* sul pont. *mp: sfz-pp*

Preview File Only

135 *pp* *f molto*

V. — were they all; who cried:

E♭ Cl. flutter *ppp* *f*

Cl. flutter *ppp* *f*

Vla. m. ord. 3 sul pont. *fp*

Vc. *pp* *p* *ppp* sul pont. *fp*

Db. m. ord. 3 *fp*

With infinite tenderness ♩ = ca. 50

138 *pp* *mp* *mf* *harder-condemning*

V. *pityingly* "La bel-le da-mes sans mer-ci hath thee in thrall!"

E♭ Cl. *p sost.* *solo espress.* *mf* *f*

Cl. *p sost.* *solo espress.* *mf* *f*

Vla. m. ord. flautando *p sost.* *mp* *passionato!* *p* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *p sost.* *arco* *passionato!* *mp* *p* *f*

Db. m. ord. *p sost.* *mp* *p* *f*

(more intense not louder)

rit. e dim. . . . ♩ = ca. 38

141 *p* *ppp*

V. La bel- le da - me sans mer - ci hath thee in thrall!"

E♭ Cl. *p* *pp dolciss.*

Cl. *p* *pp dolciss.*

Vla. *p* *dolciss.* *pp* flautando no vib. (sub. "dead")

Vc. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *pp*

Db. *p* *pp* *loco* sul A. (actual pitch) *poco sfz*

XI: Terrified ♩ = 100

144 *pp hoarse*

V. I saw their starv'd lips in the gloam, With hor - rid war -

E♭ Cl. *pp*

Cl. *pp* *sempre senza sfumatura*

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *segunte la voce* *p*

Db. sul G. sul D. *p marcato e distinto*

147

V. *f* *p sub.* *pp*
 - ning ga-pèd wide And I a - woke, and

E♭ Cl. *p* *p*

Cl. *p* *p*

Vla.

Vc. *p: sfz* *f: sfz* *p: sfz*
 take mute Gliss. take mute

Db. take mute

XII: Come Prima ♩ = 69

150

V. found me here. On the cold hill - side.

E♭ Cl. *ppp eco* *mf* *p*
lamenting

Cl. *ppp eco*

Vla. take mute (muted) sul pont. ord.

Vc. (muted) arco *p* sul pont. ord.

Db. (muted) sul pont. ord. *p: sfz*

154

V.

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

157

V. *p espress.* *pp*
And this is why— I sojourn here— A - -

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *sul tasto, non vib.*

Vc. *sul tasto, non vib.*

Db. *sul tasto, non vib.*

159

V. *pp* *ppp* *pppp*

- lone and pale - ly loi - ter - ing ———— Though the sedge is wi - ther'd

E♭ Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Cl. *pp* *ppp* *pppp*

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

Vc. *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *p*
m. ord.

Db. *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

161

V. *ppp*

from the lake ———— and no birds sing.

E♭ Cl.

Cl.

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

Db. *p* *pp* *ppp*
pizz.