

Programme Notes

The Harlequin of the Air
Phantasy Masked and
Unmasked

for Flute, Oboe/ Cor , Clarinet in Bb, Horn in F, and Bassoon

for Catherine Pluygers

Duration 5 minutes.

This short piece is a capricious flight of Fancy or Phantasy, in which birds and Venetian bells mingle with the airy caperings of a mischievous spirit. However, the mask is twice laid aside to reveal a delicate vulnerability.

The musical material grows out of the simple intervals of the unmasked melody.

Performance Note:

The oboe changes to cor anglais at the unmasking points: there should be time enough at the pause to allow for this.

There are several indications for oboe chords and harmonics. I have indicated what I would prefer as the strongest tone to come through the chord, but the exact timbre / harmonics are at the discretion of the player; who may also feel free to play the upper notes only, without effects, if wished.

HARLEQUIN OF THE AIR

Masked and Unmasked

For Wind Quintet

Music by Julia Usher

Allegro vivo

q=85

Musical score for the first system of 'Harlequin of the Air'. The score is for a Wind Quintet and consists of five staves: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, and Horn in F. The music is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked 'Allegro vivo' with a quarter note equal to 85 (q=85). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mp*, *ff*, and *mf*, as well as performance instructions like 'chord' and 'nat'. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Musical score for the second system of 'Harlequin of the Air', starting at measure 5. The score continues with the same five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn), and Horn (Hn). A section marker 'A' is placed above the first measure of this system. The tempo changes to 'A Tempo'. The score includes a 5:3 ratio marking above the Oboe staff, dynamic markings such as *ten mp*, *pp*, *f*, *mp*, *mf*, *sfz*, and *mp*, and performance instructions like 'nat' and '(chord)'. A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

10

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn *mp* *tenuto* *mf* *f*

Hn *mf*

leggiere *mf* *p*

13 **B**

Fl. *mf+* *ten.*

Ob. *mf+* *ten.*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn *mf*

Hn

q=90 *3* *3* *3* *3*

18 *q=95* **Poco Accel.....** *q=110* *q=120* **Scherzando** *tr*

Fl. *mp* *f*

Ob. *mp* *f*

Cl. *mp* *f*

Bsn *mp* *f*

Hn *mp*

C *slentando*
 q=100 q=90

21

Fl. *f*

Ob.

Cl. *mf*

Bsn *mf*

Hn *mf* *f*

q=75
 Slightly slower and more cadenza-like

23

Fl. *f*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mp*

Bsn

Hn *p* *mf*

poco f

D Begins to build urgency and weight

25

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *p* *mp*

Bsn *mf*

Hn *mp* *mf* *mf*