

IN THE CENTER RING

By Robert Sheldon

In *the Center Ring* was written in the autumn of 2003 for the Upper Antioch Grade School Band from Antioch, Illinois, Earl Bush, director. The piece is a musical snapshot of a circus performance, from the madcap antics of the jugglers and clowns to the elegance of the high-wire and trapeze performers. This wild musical romp is certainly a technical challenge, but is also great fun for the performer and listener alike.

The initial tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 160$ or faster. Although the piece will work at a slower tempo, the real spirit of the piece is more evident if played at high speed. Care must be taken not to play it too fast, however, or the piece will seem out of control and the nuances will be lost. Measures 21, 65 and 106 are similar but each feature a different effect in the percussion; be sure that the timpani “boing!”, ratchet and police whistle are clearly heard as the “solo” voice. The accents in the mixed-meter sections should be played with energy and separation so as to let the music “dance.” The conductor may wish to take a slight *rallentando* in measures 81-83 (and similarly at measure 94 if desired) with a return to tempo at measure 84. It is very important that the triangle and orchestra bells be clearly heard in the final measure on beat 2 without having to play above the dynamic indicated. This may be a challenge given the acoustics of some performance sites! For this reason, the other players must play the downbeat of the final measure quite short so as to allow as much space before beat 2 for their sound to decay prior to the “ting”. The final stinger should be quite energetic!

Above all, remember this is a theatrical piece—so emphasize the dynamics, bring out the inherent comedy and have FUN!

Instrumentation

1 — Conductor Score	3 — 1st B \flat Trumpet	4 — Mallet Percussion
10 — Flute/Piccolo	3 — 2nd B \flat Trumpet	(Orchestra Bells,
2 — Oboe	3 — 3rd B \flat Trumpet	Xylophone/Vibraphone/
2 — Bassoon	2 — 1st F Horn	Chimes)
4 — 1st B \flat Clarinet	1 — 2nd F Horn	2 — Percussion 1 (Snare Drum,
4 — 2nd B \flat Clarinet	2 — 1st Trombone	Bass Drum)
4 — 3rd B \flat Clarinet	2 — 2nd Trombone	4 — Percussion 2 (Sus.Cymbal/
1 — E \flat Alto Clarinet	2 — 3rd Trombone	Triangle/Ratchet/Police
2 — B \flat Bass Clarinet	2 — Baritone B.C.	Whistle, Crash Cymbals/
2 — 1st E \flat Alto Saxophone	2 — Baritone T.C.	Tambourine/Whip)
2 — 2nd E \flat Alto Saxophone	4 — Tuba	1 — Timpani
2 — B \flat Tenor Saxophone	Percussion – 7 players:	
1 — E \flat Baritone Saxophone		

Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order. We hope this will not present any difficulty for you in distributing the parts. Thank you for your understanding.



In the Center Ring

FULL SCORE
Duration - 4:25

Robert Sheldon
Op. 97

Scherzando ♩ = 160 (or faster!)

The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Flute & Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinets (1 and 2/3), E♭ Alto Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, E♭ Alto Saxophones (1 and 2), B♭ Tenor Saxophone, and E♭ Baritone Saxophone. The second system includes B♭ Trumpets (1 and 2/3), F Horns (1 and 2), Trombones (1 and 2/3), Baritone, Tuba, Mallet Percussion (Orchestra Bells, Xylophone/Vibraphone/Chimes), Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum), Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal/Triangle/Ratchet/Police Whistle, Crash Cymbals/Tambourine/Whip), and Timpani. Dynamics range from *mf* to *ff*. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

1 *ff* 2 3 *f* 4

6

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

6

1
Tpts.

2
3

Hns. 1/2

1
Trbs.

2
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

5

6

7

8

9

p

mf

p

sfz

mp

a2

p

sfz

p

a2

p

p

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.

2
3

Hns. 1
2

1
Trbs.

2
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

10 11 12 13

Musical score for woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Fl./Picc., Ob., Bsn., Cls. (1 and 2/3), A. Cl., B. Cl., A. Saxes (1 and 2), T. Sax., Bar. Sax., and Hns. (1 and 2). The second system includes Tpts. (1, 2, 3), Trbs. (1, 2, 3), Bar., Tuba, Mlt. Perc., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, and Timp. The score features various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*. A large red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure numbers 14, 15, 16, and 17 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Fl./Picc. 22

Ob.

Bsn. *f*

Cl. 1 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2 *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *f* *ff*

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3 22 *ff* *a2* *ff*

Hns. 1 2 *f* *ff*

Trbs. 1 2 3 *f* *ff*

Bar. *f* *ff*

Tuba *f* *ff*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2

Timp. "boing!" *fff* gliss. Cr. Cym. *ff*

18 19 20 21 22

Fl./Picc. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn.

Cls. 1 *f*

Cls. 2 *f*

Cls. 3

A. Cl. *f*

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 *f*

A. Saxes 2 *f*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 *f*

Tpts. 2 *f*

Tpts. 3

Hns. 1 *f*

Hns. 2 *f*

Trbs. 1 *f*

Trbs. 2 *f*

Trbs. 3

Bar. *f*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. *f*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2

Timp.

Xylo. *f*

23 24 25 26 27

28

Fl./Picc. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn.

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax.

28

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3

Hns. *mp*

1

2

3

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. *mp*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Timp.

Bells *mp*

Tamb. *mp*

28 29 30 31 32

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1
2
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2

Trbs. 1
2
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Fl./Picc.
Ob.
Bsn.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
Cls. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Trbs. 1
Trbs. 2
Trbs. 3
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Timp.

53 54 55 56 57

58

Fl./Picc. *ff f*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *ff mf*

Cls. 1 *ff*
2 *ff*
3

A. Cl. *ff mf*

B. Cl. *ff mf*

A. Saxes 1 *ff mf*
2

T. Sax. *ff mf*

Bar. Sax. *ff mf*

58

Tpts. 1 *ff f*
2 *ff mf*
3

Hns. 1 *mf*
2

Trbs. 1 *mf*
2 *mf*
3

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *ff*

Mlt. Perc. *ff* Bells Xylo. *ff*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Timp. *ff mf*

58 59 60 61

Fl./Picc. *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2 *a2* *mf*

Cl. 3 *f*

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. *a2* *f* *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

Tpts. 1 *mf*

Tpts. 2 *mf*

Tpts. 3 *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

Hns. 2 *mf*

Trbs. 1 *mf*

Trbs. 2 *mf*

Trbs. 3 *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 *mf* *mp* *p*

Perc. 2

Timp.

71 **Grazioso** ♩ = 72

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cls.

2 Cls.

3 Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

71 **Grazioso** ♩ = 72

1 Tpts.

2 Tpts.

3 Tpts.

1 Hns.

2 Hns.

3 Hns.

1 Trbs.

2 Trbs.

3 Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Fl./Picc. *mf* solo Flute

Ob.

Bsn.

1
2
3
Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
2
Tpts.

1
2
Hns.

1
2
3
Trbs.

Bar. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *Tri.* *mp*

Timp.

75 76 77 78 79

Fl./Picc. *-Picc.* *f* *a2*

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *f* *a2*

Cl. 2 *f*

Cl. 3 *f*

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2/3

Hns. 1 *f* *a2*

Hns. 2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2/3

Bar. *f*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Tri. *mf*

Timp.

86 87 88 89 90

Fl./Picc. *mf* *p* *div.*

Ob.

Bsn. *mp*

Cl. 1 *mf* *p*

Cl. 2 3

A. Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. 1 2 *mp*

T. Sax. *mp* *p*

Bar. Sax. *mp* *p*

Tpts. 1 *mp* *a2* *mp*

Tpts. 2 3

Hns. 1 2 *mp*

Trbs. 1 *mp* *p*

Trbs. 2 3 *mp* *p*

Bar. *mp* *p*

Tuba *mp* *p*

Mlt. Perc. *p* Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *p* Sus. Cym. scrape

Timp.

91

92

93

94

95

96

Tempo Primo ♩ = 160

99

FL./Picc. *ff* *f*

Ob. *ff* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *mf*

1 Cls. *ff* *f*

2 3 Cls. *ff* *f*

A. Cl. *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf*

A. Saxes 1 2 *ff* *mf*

T. Sax. *ff* *mf*

Bar. Sax. *ff* *mf*

Tempo Primo ♩ = 160

99

1 Tpts. *f*

2 3 Tpts.

1 2 Hns. *ff* *mf*

1 Trbs. *ff*

2 3 Trbs.

Bar. *ff*

Tuba *ff* *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff* *mf*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Timp. *ff*

97 98 99 100 101

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.

2
3

Hns. 1/2

1
Trbs.

2
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

102 *mf* 103 104 105 106

Police Whistle

ff

107

Fl./Picc. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *mf*

1 Cls. *f* *ff*

2 3 *f* *ff*

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2 *ff* *mf* *ff*

T. Sax. *ff*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

107

1 Tpts. *ff* *div.* *a2*

2 3 *ff*

Hns. 1 2 *ff*

1 Trbs.

2 3

Bar. *ff*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. Xylo. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff* *p*

Perc. 2 Cr. Cym. *mf* *f*

Timp. *mf* *f*

107 108 109 110 111

113

Fl./Picc. *f* -Picc.

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *mf*

Cls. 1 *mp*

Cls. 2 3 *mp*

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 2 *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

113

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2 *f* *a2*

Trbs. 1 2 3

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *p* Tamb. *mp*

Timp.

121

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Clars. 1

Clars. 2/3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2/3

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2/3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It features staves for woodwinds (Flute/Piccobello, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets, Alto and Bass Clarinets), saxophones (Alto, Tenor, Baritone), brass (Trumpets, Trombones, Baritone, Tuba), and percussion (Mallet Percussion, Percussion 1 & 2, Timpani). The score spans measures 117 to 121. Measure 121 is specifically marked with a box containing the number '121'. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The key signature is B-flat major, and the time signature is 4/4. A large red watermark 'Preview Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

117

118

119

120

121

Fl./Picc. *mf* *div.*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2 *f*

Trbs. 1 2 3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

122

123

124

125

126

129

127 128 129 *ff* 130 131

22313

Fl./Picc. *+Picc.* *div.* *-Picc.* *mp*

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *mp*

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 *a2* *mp*

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 *mp*

Tpts. 2

Tpts. 3

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Trbs. 3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. *Bells* *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *Tri.* *mf*

Timp.

132

133

134

135

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.

2
3

Hns. 1
2

1
Trbs.

2
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

22313

141 142 143 *ff* 144 145

Solo

