

The Story of the Songbird & the Elephant

Double concerto for Piccolo, Tuba and Orchestra with Narration

Collin G. Heade

Narration: Cameretta & Collin Heade

[9:54']

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Performance Notes:

There are a few options for narrator personnel. Using only one extremely talented individual is quite possible. If their voice is not quite high enough for a bird representation, speaking faster may be an option. There are a limited number of lines for the characters, so one skilled narrator may be adequate. I also encourage using your own imagination. Possibly orchestra members may be involved to help.

Color coding for the narrative characters has been added to the text, which is also inclusive of the soli parts, for added definition. There is also a narrative script. Both can be found in the parts folder.

There are some transitional solo narrative measures. These are not to be conducted. The meters found at these relatively short segue story lines are only an indication of approximate length of time for the musicians. These measures are marked in the parts simply as 'Narration.'

There are only a few measures where the bird or elephant narrative are to be rhythmically spoken or sung with the soloist. The verbal rhythm in these cases are meant to be aligned with the solo performer and are as well included below and above the performers staff. Only two elephant narrative excerpts are actually 'sung' in time with the tuba instrumentalist, and these are specifically tuba measures 24 & 34.

It is my hope that children and adults alike will have fun listening, as well as enjoy an imaginative departure thru these oddly related new found friends.

Cordially, Collin Heade

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Instrumentation:

Solo Piccolo, Solo Tuba, 2 Flutes, Oboe, English Horn, 2 Clarinets in Bb, 2 Bassoons, 4 Horns in F, 2 Trumpets in Bb, 2 Trombones, Bass Trombone, Marimba, Crotales, Triangle, Claves, 3 Woodblocks and Strings.

Narrative Intro:

This is a story of a songbird and an elephant, an odd acquaintance I'm sure you'll agree, but an even odder duet team...don't you see. The songbird is quite petite, with a very high-pitched projecting beak; while the elephant is quite enormous, with very profound triumphant sounds coming from its mammoth and tremendous...trunk. Yet, through the verse and song of their voices, whether high or low, sharp or deep, comes a reminder of what meaningful friendships we can 'all' experience from just as simple an encounter, without regard to range or proportions. As a song bird once chirped, "one just never knows what might be discovered thru sung conversation and observation with those who...well...don't quite look like...nor sound like...anything like...us."

Our story opens with a solitary song from our untroubled, ginormous character, who is carefree in the amusement of his own view upon the plains of the grasslands, enjoying the mere solitude of his resounding, yet engaging cheerful tune.

Let's get imagining, shall we? (piece begins)

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"Song can bring together the rarest of friends...for life"

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Moderato cantabile, Tempo Primate (Primo) (♩ = 92)

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It begins with a 4/4 time signature, which changes to 5/4 for the second measure of each staff. The score includes parts for:

- Flute (1 and 2)
- Oboe
- English Horn
- Clarinet in Bb (1 and 2)
- Bassoon (1 and 2)
- Horn in F (1, 2, 3, and 4)
- Trumpet in Bb (1 and 2)
- Trombone (1 and 2)
- Bass Trombone
- Marimba
- Crotales
- Triangle
- Claves
- 3 Woodblocks
- Narration
- Piccolo Solo
- Tuba Solo (with dynamics *mf* and *f*)
- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass