

# 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
- 10 — Flute/Piccolo
- 2 — Oboe
- 2 — Bassoon
- 4 — 1st B♭ Clarinet
- 4 — 2nd B♭ Clarinet
- 4 — 3rd B♭ Clarinet
- 1 — E♭ Alto Clarinet
- 2 — B♭ Bass Clarinet
- 2 — 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
- 2 — 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
- 2 — B♭ Tenor Saxophone
- 1 — E♭ Baritone Saxophone

- 3 — 1st B♭ Trumpet
- 3 — 2nd B♭ Trumpet
- 3 — 3rd B♭ Trumpet
- 2 — 1st F Horn
- 1 — 2nd F Horn
- 2 — 1st Trombone
- 2 — 2nd Trombone
- 2 — 3rd Trombone
- 2 — Baritone B.C.
- 2 — Baritone T.C.
- 4 — Tuba

- Percussion — 7 players:
- 4 — Mallet Percussion  
(Orchestra Bells, Xylophone/Vibraphone/Chimes)
- 2 — Percussion 1  
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
- 4 — Percussion 2  
(Sus. Cymbal/Triangle/Ratchet/Police Whistle, Crash Cymbals/Tambourine/Whip)
- 1 — Timpani



# In the Center Ring

FULL SCORE  
Duration - 4:25

Robert Sheldon  
Op. 97

Flute &amp; Piccolo

Flute & Piccolo part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with a dynamic *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Oboe

Oboe part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Bassoon

Bassoon part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *f*. The key signature is B-flat major.

B♭ Clarinets

B♭ Clarinets part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *a2*, followed by *f*, then *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

E♭ Alto Clarinet

E♭ Alto Clarinet part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

B♭ Bass Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *f*. The key signature is B-flat major.

E♭ Alto Saxophones

E♭ Alto Saxophones part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *a2*, followed by *f*, then *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *f*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Scherzando ♩ = 160 (or faster!)

B♭ Trumpets

B♭ Trumpets part. The score shows three staves of music. The first staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The third staff starts with *f*, followed by *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

F Horns

F Horns part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *ff*. The second staff starts with *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Trombones

Trombones part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *ff*. The second staff starts with *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Baritone

Baritone part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *ff*. The second staff starts with *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Tuba

Tuba part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *ff*. The second staff starts with *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Mallet Percussion  
(Orchestra Bells,  
Xylophone/Vibraphone/  
Chimes)

Mallet Percussion part. The score shows one staff of music. It starts with *ff* and ends with *ff*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Percussion 1  
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 1 part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *mf*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *Sus. Cym.*, followed by *ch*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Percussion 2  
(Suspended Cymbal/  
Triangle/Ratchet/Police  
Whistle, Crash Cymbals/  
Tambourine/Whip)

Percussion 2 part. The score shows two staves of music. The first staff starts with *mf*, followed by *ff*. The second staff starts with *Cr. Cym.*, followed by *ch*. The key signature is B-flat major.

Timpani

Timpani part. The score shows one staff of music. It starts with *ff* and ends with *f*. The key signature is B-flat major.

6

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cls. *mf*

2

A. Cl.

B. Cl. *p*

A. Saxes 1 *a2*

2 *sffz* *mp*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax. *p*

1 Tpts. *p*

2 *p*

Hns. 1 *a2*

2 *sffz* *p*

Trbs. 1

2

3

Bar. *p*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani *p*

5 6 7 8 9

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

10

11

12

13

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

14

15

16

17

Xylo.

**Preview Use Requires Purchase**

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

22

18

19

20

21

22

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*ff*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

"boing!"

Cr. Cym. gliss.

*ff*

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Xylo.

23

24

25

26

27

28

Fl./Picc. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn.

Picc. *mp*

Cl. 1 *mp*

Cl. 2 *mp*

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 *mp*

Tpts. 2 *mp*

Hns. 1 *mp*

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. *mp*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2

Timpani

Bells

Tamb. *mp*

28 29 30 31 32

36

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

44

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1

A. Saxes 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

43

44

45

46

47



Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

53      54      55      56      57

Fl./Picc. *ff f*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *ff mf*

1 Cls. *ff*

2 Cls. *ff*

A. Cl.

B. Cl. *ff mf*

A. Saxes 1 *ff mf*

T. Sax. *ff mf*

Bar. Sax. *ff mf*

Tpts. 1 *ff f*

2 *ff mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

Trbs. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *ff mf*

Mlt. Perc. *ff* Bells

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Timpani *ff mf*

Xylo. *ff*

58

59

60

61

66

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

62

63

64

65

66

*Preview Use Requires Purchase*

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tim.

71 Grazioso  $\text{♩} = 72$

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Vibes

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

71 72 73 74

Fl./Picc. solo Flute *mf*

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tri.

mp

Timpani

75 76 77 78 79

84

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

Bells

Vibes

Sus. Cym.  
scrape

80 81 82 83 84 85



Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

**Tempo Primo**  $\text{♩} = 160$

Fl./Picc. Ob. Bsn. Cls. A. Cl. B. Cl. A. Saxes T. Sax. Bar. Sax.

Tpts. Hns. Trbs. Bar. Tuba Mlt. Perc. Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Timp.

99

97 98 99 100 101

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cls.

2 Cls.

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.

102      *mf*      103      104      105      106

Police Whistle

*ff*

107

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Cr. Cym.

Xylo.

Timp.

107

108

109

110

111

113

-Picc.

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

2

Hns.

Trbs.

2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Tamb.

Perc. 2

p

mp

Timp.

112 113 114 115 116

121

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

121

117 118 119 120 121

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

div.  
mf

122 123 124 125 126



Fl./Picc. +Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timpani

+Picc.

-Picc.

div.

mp

a2

mp

mp

Bells

mp

V

Tri.

mf

132 133 134 135



Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

141      142      143      ff      144      145

