AESOP’S FABLES

By Scott Watson

AESOP’S FABLES, for narrator and band, musically portrays four tales attributed to the ancient moralist. The first two movements, “The Hare and The Tortoise” and “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” are based on two of Aesop’s better-known stories. “The Hare and The Tortoise” is a fast, chromatic caccia with a slight pause in the activity for a certain overconfident rabbit’s brief nap! In “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” the calm musical accompaniment provides a haunting counterpoint with the fatal drama. The latter two movements, “The Dog and The Bone” and “The Wolf and His Shadow”, are settings of two of Aesop’s lesser-known fables. “The Dog and The Bone” is a brief, transparently scored instrumental sigh that mirrors the story’s moral: the disappointment of coveting. The final movement, “The Wolf and His Shadow” features the happy gigue of a wolf that mistakes his long shadow for actual stature and struts about in unfounded pride. Much to the wolf’s dismay, it is the true king of beasts, the lion, who takes the last promenade!

The text is from The Best of Aesop’s Fables retold by Margaret Clark and illustrated by Charlotte Voake, Copyright in 1990 Margaret Clark (Walker Books Limited, London, published in the USA by Little, Brown & Co., Inc.).

Instrumentation

1 — Conductor Score
5 — Piccolo/1st Flute
5 — 2nd Flute
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
1 — 1st F Horn
1 — 2nd F Horn
1 — 3rd F Horn
1 — 4th F Horn
2 — 1st Trombone
2 — 2nd Trombone
2 — 3rd Trombone
2 — Baritone B.C.
2 — Baritone T.C.
4 — Tuba
1 — String Bass
Percussion – 7 players:
3 — Mallet Percussion
(Orchestra Bells, Vibraphone/Xylophone)
3 — Percussion 1 (Snare Drum/Slap Stick or Whip/Tam-Tam, Bass Drum/Claves/Crash Cymbals)
2 — Percussion 2 (Triangle/Tam-Tam/Wind Chimes/Tambourine/Sleigh Bells, Suspended Cymbal)
1 — Timpani
1 — Narrator

Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automated 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.
A hare was one day making fun of a tortoise. "You are a slowpoke," he said.
"You couldn’t run if you tried."

"Don’t you laugh at me", said the tortoise.
"I bet that I could beat you in a race."

"Couldn’t," replied the hare.

"Could," said the tortoise...

"...All right," said the hare.

"I’ll race you..."
...but I’ll win, even with my eyes shut.” They asked a passing fox to
set them off. "Ready... ...set... ...go!" said the fox.
The hare went off at a great pace.
He got so far ahead, he decided he may as well stop for a rest.
Soon he fell asleep.
The tortoise came plodding along, never stopping for a moment.
When the hare woke up, he ran as fast as he could to the finish line...
but he was too late—the tortoise had already won the race!

molto rit.

Presto! \( \frac{d}{\text{crotchet}} = 160 \)
II. The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Andante, un poco agitato $\frac{3}{4}$ = 80

Piccolo, Flutes

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinets

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophones

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

Narrator

B♭ Trumpets

F Horns

Trombones

Baritone

Bass

Mallet Percussion

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Timpani
A boy was sent to look after a flock of sheep as they grazed near a village.
It was raining, and he was bored, so he decided to play a trick on the villagers.
"Wolf! Wolf!" he shouted as loud as he could. Out ran all the villagers, leaving whatever
they were doing, to drive away the wolf. When they rushed into the field
and found the sheep quite safe... ...the boy laughed and laughed.
The next day the same thing happened. "Wolf! Wolf!" shouted the boy.

"Wolf! Wolf!" shouted the boy.

accel. poco a poco
And when the villagers ran into the field and again found everything quiet he laughed more than ever.
On the third day a wolf really did come.
"Wolf! Wolf!" shouted the boy, as the sheep ran wildly in all directions. "Oh, please come quickly! Please, please come quickly!"
But this time the villagers ignored the boy, because they thought he was only playing tricks, as he had done before.
Can you guess what happened?
## III. The Dog and the Bone

Lento, espressivo $q = 60$

A dog was walking over a bridge carrying...
a large bone in her mouth.

Looking down into the stream, she saw another dog there.
It was carrying an even bigger bone in its mouth. Immediately, the dog in the bridge jumped into the water—

St. Mute

Wind Chimes
She snatched for the bigger bone and dropped her own. And then there was just one cold, wet dog, and no bone at all!
IV. The Wolf and his Shadow

One day, when the sun was low in the sky, a wolf caught sight of an enormous shadow on the ground beside him. He looked all round, but there was no one else about.
“Why that’s my shadow,” said the wolf.
“What a wonderful animal I must be!”
“What a wonderful animal I must be! I’ve never even seen another animal as big as that.”

“The lion calls
himself king, but he's not nearly as big as I am. I am going to be king from now on."
So the wolf strutted about, thinking of all the things he would do now that he was king.
He was so busy thinking about himself, he didn’t even notice the lion, who suddenly sprang on him and swallowed him whole.
As the lion licked his lips, he said, “What a silly wolf! Everyone knows that sometimes your shadow is big, sometimes it’s small, and sometimes you have no shadow at all.”