

# Overture to "The Wasps"

Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Arranged by Brendan McBrien

Shortly after returning from Paris where he had been studying orchestration with Ravel, the 36-year-old Ralph Vaughan Williams was invited by Cambridge University to compose incidental music for their 1909 production of Aristophanes' great satire "The Wasps." He set about to create a score that contained an impressive array of beautifully orchestrated character pieces to accompany the play.

In this arrangement of "The Wasps," two additions have been made that were not called for by Vaughan Williams. The first is the addition of the whip in the percussion, and the second is the "snap" *pizzicati* in the cello and bass parts, mm. 6–15. These effects were added to heighten the drama in the opening of this work and can be omitted if necessary.

Trills: Be aware of the interval changes in the violin and viola trills between measures 4 and 5. They go from whole- to half-step trills as the accidentals on the trills indicate.

Stopped Horn: Stopping is called for in the horn parts (made optional in most measures). All parts marked "mute" were originally marked "stopped" by the composer. Hand stopping requires that the player close the heel of their bell hand and seal the entire opening. Notes should then be fingered a half step lower on the F horn (not with the B-flat trigger), thus creating a "buzzing" quality. The resulting tone should be the same as the printed note. This technique takes some practice, but is a very unique effect when done correctly.

## INSTRUMENTATION

|                       |   |  |   |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| Conductor Score ..... | 1 | Trombones I & II.....  | 1 |
| Flute/Piccolo .....   | 1 | Tuba .....   | 1 |
| Oboe I .....          | 1 | Percussion .....   | 2 |
| Oboe II.....          | 1 | (Crash Cymbals, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Whip, Triangle) |   |
| Bassoon .....         | 1 | Timpani .....  | 1 |
| B♭ Clarinet I .....   | 1 | Violin I.....  | 8 |
| B♭ Clarinet II.....   | 1 | Violin II .....  | 8 |
| B♭ Bass Clarinet..... | 1 | Viola .....  | 5 |
| F Horn I.....         | 1 | Cello .....  | 5 |
| F Horn II.....        | 1 | String Bass .....  | 5 |
| B♭ Trumpet I .....    | 1 |  |   |
| B♭ Trumpet II .....   | 1 |  |   |

**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.

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**Fl./Picc.**

**Obs.** I II

**Cls.** I II

**Bsn. (B. Cl.)**

**Hns.** I II

**Tpts.** I II

**Trbs.** I II

**Tuba**

**Temp.**

**Perc.**

**Vlns.** I II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

*pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *cresc.* *tr#*

*pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *cresc.* *tr#*

*pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *cresc.* *tr#*

snap *f* snap *f* arco *p*

snap *f* snap *f*

Fl./ Picc. 19 *-picc.* *tr* 20 *tr* *#* *tr* *#* 21 *+picc.* *tr* 22 *tr* 23 *tr* 24 *tr* 25 *#* 26 27 28

Obs. I II *tr* *tr* *tr* *#* *tr* *#* *f* *ff*

Cls. I II *tr* *tr* *tr* *#* *tr* *#* *f* *ff*

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II *open* *f* *stopped* *ff* *(mute)*

Tpts. I II *f* *ff*

Trbs. I II *f* *ff*

Tuba *f* *ff*

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I *tr* *tr* *tr* *#* *tr* *#* *f* *ff* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *div.* *f*

Vlns. II *tr* *tr* *tr* *#* *tr* *#* *f* *ff* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *div.* *f*

Vla. *tr* *tr* *tr* *#* *tr* *#* *f* *ff* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *div.* *f*

Cello *cresc.* *f* *f* *f* *ff* *f*

Str. Bass *arco* *f* *f* *f* *ff*

29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

29

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

a2

a2 open

pp

mp

p

unis. V

arco V

1 2 4 6

Fl./ Picc. 37 38 +picc. 39 40 41 42 43 44 45

Obs. I II

Cls. I II a2

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II open a2

Trbs. I II a2

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. Tri.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

23367



46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 unis. 54

Fl./ Picc. *mf* *div.* *+picc. (lower notes)* *mf*

Obs. I II *mf* 3 3 3

Cls. I II *mf* 3 3 3

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *mf* 3 3 3

Hns. I II *mf* 3 3 3

Tpts. I II *mf* 3 3 3

Trbs. I II *mf* 3 3 3

Tuba

Timp. *mf*

Perc.

Vlns. I *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*  
II *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Cello *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Str. Bass *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

*pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*



55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II *a2* *f*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *f*

Hns. I II *a2* *f marcato*

Tpts. I II *a2* *f*

Trbs. I II *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp.

Perc. Cr. Cyms. B. D. *p* *p*

55 Vlns. I *arco* *f marcato* V II *arco* *f marcato* V

Vla. *arco* *f* V

Cello *arco* *f* V

Str. Bass *arco* *f* V

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

Fl./ Picc. *p* -picc.

Obs. I II *a2 p*

Cls. I II *a2 p*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *p*

Hns. I II *a2 p*

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. *p*

Vlns. I II *4 stands p*

Vla. *4 stands p*

Cello *2 stands p*

Str. Bass *pizz. p*

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*p*

*a2*

*p*

*tutti*

*p*

*tutti*

*p*

*tutti*

*p*

*tutti*

*p*

82 83 84 +picc. 85 86 87 88 89 90

Fl./ Picc. *f marcato* *picc. lower notes*

Obs. I II *f marcato*

Cls. I II *f marcato*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *f marcato*

Hns. I II *f marcato* a2

Tpts. I II *f marcato* a2

Trbs. I II *f marcato*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc.

85 4

Vlns. I II *f marcato*

Vla. *f marcato*

Cello *f marcato*

Str. Bass *arco mp f marcato*

23367

91 92 93 94 95 96 97 <sup>+picc.</sup> 98 99

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. Cr. Cym. B. D.

93

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass



108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116

Fl./ Picc. *p*

Obs. I II *p*

Cls. I II *a2 f marcato mf p*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *mp marcato*

Hns. I II *f marcato mf p*

Tpts. I II *mute ff p*

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II *loco mf mp*

Vla. *f marcato mf p*

Cello *mp marcato p*

Str. Bass *mp*

unis. 4 stands



117  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  118 119 120

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II *cantabile*

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II *cantabile*

Tpts. I II *1<sup>st</sup> (mute)* *p*

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

117  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

Vlns. I II *cantabile*

Vla. *cantabile*

Cello

Str. Bass *pizz.* *p*

121 122 123 124 -picc.

Fl./ Picc. *mf*

Obs. I II *mf*

Cls. I II *a2*

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II *a2*

Tpts. I II *mf*

Trbs. I II *a2* *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla. *V*

Cello *V*

Str. Bass *arco* *V* *mf*

125 126 127 128

Fl./ Picc. *cantabile* *f*

Obs. I II *cantabile* *f*

Cls. I II *mf* *f*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *mf* *div.* *f*

Hns. I II *mp* *mf*

Tpts. I II *open* *mf* *f*

Trbs. I II *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *mf*

Perc.

125 tutti V

Vlns. I *mf cantabile* *f*

Vlns. II *mf cantabile* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello *mp* *mf*

Str. Bass *f*

129 130 131 132

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp. *f*

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Bb to C

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**Obs.**

**Cls.**

**Bsn.**  
**(B. Cl.)**

**Hns.**

**Tpts.**

**Trbs.**

## Tuba

**Timp.**

Perc.

**Vlns.**

**Vla.**

## Cello

**Str. Bass**

**Poco rit.**

**a tempo** (♩ = 132)

141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148

**FL./ Picc.** *ff* *tr* *mp* *-picc.*

**Obs.** *ff* *tr* *mp*

**Cls.** *ff* *a2 tr* *tr* *mp*

**Bsn. (B. Cl.)** *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

**Hns.** *f* *mute (or stopped)* *p*

**Tpts.** *f* *mute* *p*

**Trbs.**

**Tuba**

**Timp.**

**Perc.** *Cr. Cyms.* *choke* *B. D.* *p*

**Vlns.** *ff* *tr* *p* *col legno* *mp*

**Vla.** *ff* *tr* *p* *col legno* *mp*

**Cello** *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *tr* *mf* *marcato* *p*

**Str. Bass** *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *tr* *mf* *marcato* *p*



149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 +picc.

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *f*

Sus. Cym. (Timp. mallet)

arco normal  $\frac{V}{3}$  4 0 *p*

23367

157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II *f*

Cls. I II *f*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *f*

Hns. I II *f* open

Tpts. I II *f* a2 open

Trbs. I II *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. *f* Cr. Cyms. choke

157

Vlns. I II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

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**Obs.**

**Cls.**

**Bsn.**  
**(B. Cl.)**

**Hns.**

**Tpts.**

**Trbs.**

**Tuba**

**Timp.**

Perc.

**Vlns.**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

### Str. Bass

173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 -picc.

Fl./ Picc. *f*

Obs. I II *f* a2 *f*

Cls. I II *f* a2

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *f marc.*

Hns. I II *f marc.*

Tpts. I II *f marc.* a2

Trbs. I II *f marc.*

Tuba *f marc.*

Timp. *f*

Perc.

173

Vlns. I II *f marc.* V

Vla. *f marc.* V

Cello *f marc.* V

Str. Bass *f marc.* V

181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189

FL./ Picc. *p cantabile*

Obs. I II *p dolce*

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *p*

Hns. I II *p*

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

189

Vlns. I II *p cantabile*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p*

Str. Bass *p pizz.*

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FL./ Picc.

Obs.

Cls.

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns.

Tpts.

Trbs.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198

*p*

*mp*

arco

*mp*

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199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207

FL./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*p* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.*

*a2* *p* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.* *f marc.*

*3* *1* *4* *3* *4* *1* *2* *1* *2*



210

208 209  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  211 212

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Cr. Cyms.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*ff* *p* *pp* *simile* *3* *V* *Tbn. 1*

210

*ff* *p* *pp* *simile* *3* *V*

213 214 215 216

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cl. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*p* *cresc.*

*p* *cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*p* *cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

*cresc. poco a poco*

217 218 219 220

Fl./ Picc. *f* +picc. (lower)

Obs. I II *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Cls. I II *p* *cresc.* *mf* *f*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *p* *cresc.*

Hns. I II *mf* *cresc.*

Tpts. I II *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Trbs. I II *mf* *cresc.*

Tuba

Timp. *p*

Perc.

Vlns. I *mf* *cresc.* II *mf* *cresc.*

Vla. *mf* *cresc.*

Cello *mf* *cresc.*

Str. Bass *mf* *cresc.*

221

Fl./ Picc. *dolce*

Obs. I II *dolce*

Cls. I II *dolce*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *f*

Hns. I II *f*

Tpts. I II *dolce*

Trbs. I II *div. f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. Tri. *f* Cr. Cyms. *f* Sus. Cym. *mf*

222

223

221

Vlns. I II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

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224 225 226

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*ff*

*V*

227 228 229

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf*

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231 a tempo, animato ♩ = 132

**Molto ritardando**

230 231 232 233 234 235 236

Fl./ Picc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Obs. I II *ff* *ff* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Cls. I II *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Hns. I II *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Tpts. I II *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Trbs. I II *ff* *ff* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Tuba *ff* *ff* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Timp. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Perc. *f* *f* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

**Molto ritardando**

231 a tempo, animato ♩ = 132

Vlns. I II *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Cello *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Str. Bass *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*



239

237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244

Fl./ Picc. *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Obs. I II *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Cls. I II *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato* a2

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato* a2

Hns. I II *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato* a2

Tpts. I II *mf* *cresc.* *f* a2

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp. *f*

Perc. *choke*

239

I II

Vlns. I II *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato*

Vla. *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato*

Cello *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato*

Str. Bass *mf* *cresc.* *f marcato*

245 246 247 248 249 250 +picc. 251 252

Fl./ Picc.

Obs. I II

Cls. I II

Bsn. (B. Cl.)

Hns. I II

Tpts. I II

Trbs. I II

Tuba

Timp.

Perc.

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*f*

Tri. Sus. Cym.

*f*

23367

253 254 255 256 257 G.P. 258 259 260 261

Fl./Picc. *ff*

Obs. I II *ff* *pp* *ff*

Cls. I II *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Bsn. (B. Cl.) *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Hns. I II *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Tpts. I II *p* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Trbs. I II *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Tuba *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Timp. *ff* *pp* *ff*

Perc. *ff* *pp* *ff*

B. D. *choke*

Vlns. I II *ff* *pp* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Cello *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

Str. Bass *f* *ff* *pp* *ff*

G.P. (V)

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