

young symphonic band series

The Mystery of Duffy's Cut

By Robert Sheldon

The Mystery of Duffy's Cut was commissioned by the Bux-Mont Intermediate Honors Band of the Bucks and Montgomery Counties in Pennsylvania. Not far from the schools involved in this commission, ghostly apparitions and a series of strange occurrences have fueled interest in "Duffy's Cut," a mass burial site in Malvern, where 57 Irish-immigrant workers died mysteriously while doing work for the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1832. This tone poem chronicles the life and times of these men.

INSTRUMENTATION

1 — Conductor Score

10 — Flute

2 — Oboe

2 — Bassoon

6 — 1st B♭ Clarinet

6 — 2nd 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

4 — 1st B♭ Trumpet

4 — 2nd B♭ Trumpet

2 — F Horn

3 — 1st Trombone

3 — 2nd Trombone

2 — Euphonium T.C.

2 — Euphonium B.C.

4 — Tuba

Percussion – 6 players:

3 — Mallet Percussion (Xylophone
Bells/Chimes)

3 — Percussion 1 (Snare Drum/Wind
Chimes, Bass Drum)

5 — Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal
Hi-Hat, Brake Drum/Tambourine/
Triangle)

1 — Timpani

WORLD PARTS

available for download from
www.alfred.com/worldparts

E♭ Horn

1st Trombone in B♭ T.C.

2nd Trombone in B♭ T.C.

1st Trombone in B♭ B.C.

2nd Trombone in B♭ B.C.

Euphonium in B♭ B.C.

Tuba in B♭ T.C.

Tuba in B♭ B.C.

Tuba in E♭ T.C.

Tuba in E♭ B.C.



PROGRAM NOTES

Duffy's Cut is a mass burial site in Malvern, Pennsylvania, where 57 Irish-immigrant workers died mysteriously while doing work for the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1832. Since the men were not U.S. citizens, no death certificates were ever filed, and the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad did everything in its power to erase their memory, including a failure to contact their families in Ireland.

Living in a large shantytown beside a ravine, all 57 men became victims of a suspiciously-labeled "cholera epidemic." There is speculation that foul play, not cholera, had a hand in the men's death, since casualty rates for the disease are usually far less than the 100% mortality rate experienced here.

For the past 170 years, sightings of ghostly apparitions have been reported at this site, especially on an Ember Night, when, according to Catholic tradition, souls come out of Purgatory to find people to help them and pray for them. A team of archaeologists have been digging at the site, and have placed several artifacts on display at the Immaculata University library. Lately, reports have been coming in from visitors to the library about odd occurrences including knocking on doors and windows, televisions turning on and off by themselves, and the appearances of glowing figures in the evening hours.

This piece was inspired by the story of Duffy's Cut, and serves to memorialize the Irish immigrants. The music represents the spirits, their work on the railroad, and their feelings of great sadness at never being able to say goodbye to their families. Two Irish folk songs - "Bridgit O'Malley" and "Brian Boru's March" - can be heard in the piece:

"Bridgit O'Malley" is a traditional Irish folk song:

*Oh Bridgit O'Malley, you left my heart shaken
With a hopeless desolation, I'd have you to know
It's the wonders of admiration your quiet face has taken
And your beauty will haunt me wherever I go.
The white moon above the pale sands, the pale stars above the thorn tree
Are cold beside my darling, but no purer than she
I gaze upon the cold moon till the stars drown in the warm sea
And the bright eyes of my darling are never on me.*

"Brian Boru's March" is a tune composed in commemoration of the Battle of Clontarf that occurred in 1014. The Irish repelled the Vikings, but in so doing lost their gallant leader, Brian Boru. The tune traces the victory and eventual discovery of the slain king.

8

Fl. *mp*

Ob.

Bsn. *mf* *p*

1 Cls. *mp*

2 *p*

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

1 A. Saxes *mf* *p*

2 *mf* *p*

T. Sax. *mf* *p*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *p*

8 Tpts. 1 *mf* *mp* Straight mute - opt. Solo

2 *mf*

Hn. *mf* *p*

1 Trbs. *mf* *p*

2 *mf*

Euph. *mf* *p*

Tuba *mf*

Mlts.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *mf*

Timp. *mf*

8 9 *p* 10 11 12 13 14

26815

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *f*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

A. Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1 *mf*

A. Sax. 2 *mf*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax. *f*

Tpts. 1 *f*

Tpts. 2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Trbs. 1 *f*

Trbs. 2 *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*

Mlts. Xylo. (hard mallets) *f*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 Brake Drum *p* *f* *fff*

Timp. *f* *fff*

25

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1

A. Saxes 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hn.

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Mlts.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

mp

mf

p

Closed Hi-Hat

Fl.
Ob.
Bsn.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Hn.
Trbs. 1
Trbs. 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mlts.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Timp.

Fl.
Ob.
Bsn.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Hn.
Trbs. 1
Trbs. 2
Euph.
Tuba
Mlts.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Timp.

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1
Cls.

2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

1
A. Saxes

2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.

2

Hn.

1
Trbs.

2

Euph.

Tuba

Mlts.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

mp *f* *f* *f* *f*

42 43 44 45 46

49 Tempo I

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hn.

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Mlts.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Wind Chimes

Sus. Cym.

(soft mallets)

Cym. Scrape w/coin

Roll

p *mp* *mf* *f*

26815 47 48 49 50 (re-tune Eb) 51 52 53 54



“Bridgit O’Malley”

57 Mournfully ♩ = 80

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cls.

2 Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

1 A. Saxes

2 A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

“Bridgit O’Malley”

57 Mournfully ♩ = 80

1 Tpts.

2 Tpts.

Hn.

1 Trbs.

2 Trbs.

Euph.

Tuba

Mlts.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Flowing freely

73

81

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *f*

Cls. 1 *mf* *f*

Cls. 2 *mf* *f*

A. Cl. *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *f*

A. Saxes 1 *mf* *f*

A. Saxes 2 *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *mf* *f*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *f*

Tpts. 1 *mf* *f*

Tpts. 2 *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* *f*

Trbs. 1 *mf* *f*

Trbs. 2 *mf* *f*

Euph. *mf* *f*

Tuba *mf* *f*

Mlts. *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *mf* *p* *mf*

Timp. *mf*

mf 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81

“Brian Boru’s March”

poco rall. Moderate March Tempo ♩ = 100

97 2nd time only

Fl. *mp* 2nd time only

Ob. *mp* 2nd time only

Bsn.

1 Cls.

2 Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

1 A. Saxes *mf*

2 A. Saxes *mf* 2nd time only

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

poco rall. Moderate March Tempo ♩ = 100

97 “Brian Boru’s March” (Tutti) 2nd time only

1 Tpts.

2 Tpts.

Hn.

1 Trbns. 2nd time only *mp*

2 Trbns. 2nd time only *mp*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba

Mlts.

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *Tamb.* 2nd time only

Timp. (Med. Mallets) *mp*

91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1

A. Saxes 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hn.

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Mlts.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

1.

2. loco

