

FLIGHT OF THE PIASA

By Robert Sheldon

Instrumentation

1 — Conductor Score
5 — 1st Flute & Piccolo
5 — 2nd Flute
2 — Oboe
2 — Bassoon
4 — 1st B♭ Clarinet
4 — 2nd B♭ Clarinet
4 — 3rd B♭ 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
2 — 2nd F Horn
2 — 1st Trombone
2 — 2nd Trombone
2 — 3rd Trombone
2 — Euphonium T.C.
2 — Euphonium B.C.
4 — Tuba
Percussion — 6 players:
1 — Bells
2 — Percussion 1 (Snare Drum,
Bass Drum)
5 — Percussion 2 (Suspended
Cymbal, Crash Cymbals/
Tambourine/Wind
Chimes/Triangle)
1 — Timpani

World Parts
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E♭ Alto Clarinet
E♭ Contra Bass Clarinet
B♭ Contra Bass Clarinet
1st E♭ Horn
2nd E♭ Horn
3rd E♭ Horn
4th E♭ Horn
1st Trombone in B♭ T.C.
2nd Trombone in B♭ T.C.
3rd Trombone in B♭ T.C.
1st Trombone in B♭ B.C.
2nd Trombone in B♭ B.C.
3rd 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.



Flight of the Piasa was commissioned by the Alton High School Band, Alton, Illinois, David W. Drillinger, Director. The composition is meant to depict the majesty of the legendary Piasa, an enormous winged creature, and the bravery and triumph of the Illini tribe.

The Piasa Bird (pronounced pie-a-saw) is a local legend in the Alton area. Its discovery dates to 1673 when Father Jacques Marquette, in recording his famous journey down the Mississippi River with Louis Joliet, described the Piasa as a birdlike monster painted high on the bluffs along the Mississippi River, where the city of Alton, Illinois now stands. According to the diary, the Piasa "was as large as a calf with horns like a deer, red eyes, a beard like a tiger's, a face like a man, the body covered with green, red and black scales and a tail so long it passed around the body, over the head and between the legs." The creature was given its name by the Illini tribe, "The Piasa," meaning a bird that devours men.

One of the most commonly-heard stories regarding this legend is that long ago there existed a birdlike creature of such great size, he could easily carry off a full grown deer in his talons. His taste, however, was for human flesh. Hundreds of warriors attempted to destroy the Piasa, but failed. Whole villages were destroyed and fear spread throughout the Illini tribe. Ouatoga, a chief whose fame extended even beyond the Great Lakes, separated himself from his tribe, fasted in solitude for the space of a whole moon, and prayed to the Great Spirit to protect his people from the Piasa.

On the last night of his fast, the Great Spirit appeared to Ouatoga in a dream and directed him to select 20 warriors, arm them each with a bow and poisoned arrow, and conceal them in a designated spot. Another warrior was to stand in an open view, as a victim for the Piasa. When the chief awoke in the morning, he told the tribe of his dream. The warriors were quickly selected and placed in ambush. Ouatoga offered himself as the victim. Placing himself in open view, he soon saw the Piasa perched on the bluff eyeing his prey. Ouatoga began to chant the death song of a warrior. The Piasa took to the air and swooped down upon the chief. The Piasa had just reached his victim when every bow was sprung and every arrow sent sailing into the body of the beast. The Piasa uttered a fearful scream that echoed down the river, and died. Ouatoga was safe, and the tribe saved.

This remarkable painting has been a local landmark. The recently restored painting can be seen on the bluff just north of Alton on the Great River Road.

Flight of the Piasa

FULL SCORE
Duration - 5:10

Presto $\text{J} = 152$

Robert Sheldon
op. 120

Flutes & Piccolo 1/2

+Picc.

Oboe

a2

Bassoon

-Picc.

B♭ Clarinets 1

ff

B♭ Bass Clarinet 2

ff

E♭ Alto Saxophones 1/2

ff

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

ff

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

ff

B♭ Trumpets 1

Presto $\text{J} = 152$

ff

F Horns 2

ff

Trombones 1

ff

Euphonium 2

ff

Tuba

ff

Bells

(brass mallets)

Percussion 1
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

ff

Percussion 2
(Suspended Cymbal,
Crash Cymbals/
Tambourine/
Wind Chimes/Triangle)

S.D.

B.D. f

Suspended Cymbal (soft mallets)

Timpani

Cr. Cyms.

f

(medium mallets)

29477

Tune: F, B♭, D, E♭ ff

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1 mp

2

ff

3



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Fls./Picc. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2 3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tim. 1

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11

5

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

1
2
3 Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1
2
3 Tpts.

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1
2
3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

12 13 14 15 16 >

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1/2/3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1/2/3

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1/2/3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

mf

a2

21

22

23

Fls./Picc. 1 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Clz. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Trbs. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

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39

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Wind Chimes

Sus. Cym.
w/sticks

Perc. 2

mf

mp

Timp.

37 38 39 40 41 42 43

47

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Fls./Picc. 1/2 -Picc. 55
Ob.
Bsn.
Cl.
B. Cl.
A. Saxes 1/2 a2
T. Sax. mf
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1/2 55
Hns. 1/2 a2
Trbs. 1/2
Euph.
Tuba
Bells
Perc. 1
Perc. 2 Wind Chimes
Timp.

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Musical score for orchestra, page 15. The score includes parts for Fls./Picc., Ob., Bsn., Cls. 1, Cls. 2, B. Cl., A. Saxes 1/2, T. Sax., Bar. Sax., Tpts. 1/2, Hns., Trbs. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, Bells, Perc. 1, Perc. 2, and Timp. The music consists of six measures. Measures 56-57 show various entries from Fls./Picc., Ob., Bsn., Cls. 1, Cls. 2, B. Cl., A. Saxes 1/2, T. Sax., Bar. Sax., Tpts. 1/2, Hns., Trbs. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, and Bells. Measure 58 begins with a dynamic *mp*. Measures 59-60 show entries from Cls. 1, Cls. 2, B. Cl., A. Saxes 1/2, T. Sax., Bar. Sax., Tpts. 1/2, Hns., Trbs. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, and Bells. Measure 61 concludes the section.

Fls./Picc. 1/2 *a2* **63** *mf*

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2 *a2* **63** *mp* **8** **8** **8** **8**

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1/2 *a2* **63** **8** **8**

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *p* *mf*

Timp. *p*

rall.

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62 63 64 65 66 67 68

72 Rubato

Review requires purchase

Review requires purchase

(Ob. Solo)

72 Rubato

Clrs.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

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77 Gently $\text{♩} = 77$

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tpts. 3

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Wind Chimes

Timp.

77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84

rall.

One player (-2) *mf*

87 A Tempo ♩ = 72

Tutti

Fls./Picc. 1/2 Ob. Bsn. Cls. 1/2 B. Cl. A. Saxes 1/2 T. Sax. Bar. Sax. Tpts. 1/2 Hns. Trbs. 1/2 Euph. Tuba Bells Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Timp.

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Fls./Picc. $\frac{1}{2}$

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1
2
3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes $\frac{1}{2}$ **Tutti**
mp

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2
3

Hns. 1
2
mp

Trbs. 1
2
3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

95

Poco più mosso $\text{♩} = 76$

mf

mf

mf

mf

Tutti

f

a2

mf

Tutti

f

a2

Play

mf

mf

Tutti

mf

mf

mf

f

soft mallets

p

Triangle *mp*

f

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1/2

Tpts. 2/3

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1/2

Trbs. 2/3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

96

97

98

p

f

99

100

f

101

Fls./Picc. 1/2 *p* *rall.*
Ob.
Bsn.
Cls. 1/2 *p* *One player*
mf *One player*
(-2) mf
B. Cl.
A. Saxes 1/2 *p* *One player*
mf *One player*
(-3) mf *Solo*
mf
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1/2 *p* *rall.*
p
Hns. 1/2 *p* *rall.*
Trbs. 1/2 *p*
Euph. 1/2 *Euph.* *mf*
mf *Solo*
Tuba
Bells
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Wind Chimes
mf
Timp. *p* *Tri.* *mp*

109 **Tempo I** ♩ = 152

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

109 110 111 112 113 114

119

Fls./Picc. 1/2 *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

A. Saxes 1/2 *ff*

Tutti *a2*

T. Sax. *ff*

Bar. Sax. *ff*

Tpts. 1 *ff*

119 *ff*

2/3 *ff*

Hns. 1/2 *ff*

Trbs. 1 *ff*

2/3 *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Bells

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Cr. Cyms.

Tim. *ff*

119 120 121 122

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127 -Picc.

Fls./Picc. 1/2 *mf*

Ob. 1/2 *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1/2 *mf* *a2*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

Tpts. 1/2 *mf*

Hns. 1/2 *f* *a2*

Trbs. 1/2 *f*

Euph. 1/2 *f*

Tuba *f*

Bells

Perc. 1 *w/sticks*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Tim. *mf*

127

128

129

130

29477

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

2 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

2 3

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

2 3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

(plastic mallets)

131 132 133 134

Fls./Picc. 1/2 +Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1/2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1/2 136 ff₂

Hns. 1/2 ff

Trbs. 1/2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1 (soft mallets) ff mf

Perc. 2 p Tamb. mf

Timp.

135 mf 136 137

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Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1

Cls. 2

Cls. 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1/2

Hns.

Trbs. 1/2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1/2

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1/2

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

ff

fp

p

ffz

mf

141

142

143

Fls./Picc. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Hns. 1/2

Trbs. 1

Trbs. 2

Trbs. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

ff

153

154

155 >

156

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This is a page from a musical score for a full orchestra. The page contains 15 staves of music, each with a different instrument name. The instruments are: Flutes/Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1/2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trombones 1, Trombones 2, Trombones 3, Horns 1/2, Trombones 1, Trombones 2, Trombones 3, Euphonium, Tuba, Bells, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, and Timpani. The music is divided into four measures. Measures 1-3 show various rhythmic patterns with dynamic markings like f and ff. Measure 4 begins with ff and ends at measure 156. The page number 34 is at the top left, and the page number 29477 is at the bottom left. A large red watermark reading 'Preview Legal Use Requires Purchase' is diagonally across the page.

Fls./Picc. 1 2 Ob. Bsn. Cls. 1 2 3 B. Cl. A. Saxes 1 2 T. Sax. Bar. Sax. Tpts. 1 2 3 Hns. 1 2 Trbs. 1 2 3 Euph. Tuba Bells Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Cr. Cyms. Timp.

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