



# Skeleton Crew

(Bone-Chilling Tales from the Graveyard Shift)

By Timothy Loest

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## INSTRUMENTATION

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- 1 Conductor
- 10 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 10 B $\flat$  Clarinet
- 2 B $\flat$  Bass Clarinet
- 6 E $\flat$  Alto Saxophone
- 4 B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone
- 2 E $\flat$  Baritone Saxophone
- 8 B $\flat$  Trumpet
- 4 F Horn

- 6 Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon
- 2 Baritone T.C.  
(World Part B $\flat$  Trombone T.C.)
- 4 Tuba
- 3 Mallet Percussion  
(Chimes/Bells, Xylophone)
- 3 Percussion 1  
(Snare Drum/Field Drum,  
Bass Drum)
- 6 Percussion 2  
(Guero/Suspended Cymbal  
Flexatone, Crash Cymbals/  
Vibra-slap/Triangle)
- 2 Timpani  
(Optional)

### SUPPLEMENTAL and WORLD PARTS

Available for download from  
[www.alfred.com/worldparts](http://www.alfred.com/worldparts)

- E $\flat$  Alto Clarinet  
(B $\flat$  Bass Clarinet)
- E $\flat$  Horn
- B $\flat$  Trombone/Baritone B.C.
- E $\flat$  Tuba B.C.
- E $\flat$  Tuba T.C.
- B $\flat$  Tuba B.C.
- B $\flat$  Tuba T.C.
- String Bass

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## PROGRAM NOTES

It's midnight, and a skeleton crew of weathered gravediggers works feverishly and quietly, their shovels slicing through the cold, stony soil with a scratching, rhythmic pulse. The full moon hangs brightly, casting an eerie glow over the cemetery as its ominous beams illuminate the whitewashed headstones that jut out like crooked teeth in a decaying smile. Suddenly, a cold and damp current of air, like a breath of icy dread, passes over. A bone-chilling feeling tells the crew that it's time to wrap things up and head for home. As the last shovel slices through the earth, an ominous shadow sweeps across the face of the moon, draping the graveyard in sudden darkness. What grim, terrifying secrets lie beneath the vile dirt? What ghostly encounters or disturbing discoveries await? Is the paranormal at work, or is it just one's overactive imagination?

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

*Skeleton Crew* tells the story of a weathered cabal of grave diggers who work through the night to prepare a gravesite for an impending burial. The work opens with accented notes that imitate a clock's tolls, suggesting the passage of time from cradle to grave. For maximum effect, play these notes as bell tones.

The main theme, starting at measure 5, should be played mezzo piano in a light and separated style. While various sound effects begin to emerge, the guiro is especially important, as its scraping sound represents shovels slicing through stony soil (feel free to share this tidbit with your audience). For large percussion sections, consider doubling or tripling the guiro part for added effect. Occasionally, sforzando notes unexpectedly appear; play them decisively so as to startle your audience. At measure 13, an eerie countermelody in flute, oboe, and bells arrives. Keep this new line focused and fully supported.

At measure 21, a new theme (marked mezzo forte) is introduced. The crescendo at measure 24 should swell into the downbeat of measure 25. Then at measure 28, a decrescendo leads the music back to the original theme, this time presented with an oscillating eighth-note obligato.

Measure 37, marked "Mournfully," presents Frédéric Chopin's famous Funeral March (Piano Sonata No. 2). Keep a strict tempo so that the perpetual half notes maintain forward momentum. Surprise dynamics (measures 49 through 52) follow Chopin's intent, adding dreadful impact.

Measure 57 restates the introduction, but now with increased rhythmic activity. Finally, the work concludes in a loud and frantic manner, suggesting that something horrifying is about to happen; it's time to finish digging and to head for home! Although the tempo is marked 168 beats per minute, this section should be sufficiently rehearsed so that it sounds willful and not haphazard.

Have fun as you communicate this frightful story in a most musical way!

# Skeleton Crew

(Bone-Chilling Tales from the Graveyard Shift)

FULL SCORE

Duration - 2:05

By Timothy Loest (ASCAP)

Frightfully ♩ = 132

Flute

Oboe

B $\flat$  Clarinet

B $\flat$  Bass Clarinet

E $\flat$  Alto  
Saxophone

B $\flat$  Tenor  
Saxophone

E $\flat$  Baritone  
Saxophone

B $\flat$  Trumpet

F Horn

Trombone/Baritone/  
Bassoon

Tuba

Mallet Percussion  
(Chimes/Bells, Xylophone)

Percussion 1  
(Snare Drum/Field Drum,  
Bass Drum)

Percussion 2  
(Guiro/Suspended Cymbal/  
Flexatone,  
Crash Cymbals/Vibraslap/  
Triangle)

Timpani  
(Optional)

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It begins with a key signature of two flats (B $\flat$  and E $\flat$ ) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Frightfully' with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Flute, Oboe, B $\flat$  Clarinet, B $\flat$  Bass Clarinet, E $\flat$  Alto Saxophone, B $\flat$  Tenor Saxophone, and E $\flat$  Baritone Saxophone. The second system includes B $\flat$  Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Mallet Percussion (Chimes/Bells, Xylophone), Percussion 1 (Snare Drum/Field Drum, Bass Drum), Percussion 2 (Guiro/Suspended Cymbal, Flexatone, Crash Cymbals/Vibraslap, Triangle), and Timpani (Optional). The score features dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Chimes (opt. Bells) pedal each measure

Tune: G, C

1

2

3

4





13

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

13

Tpt. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Mlt. Perc. *mp*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Bells (w/plastic mallets)

(on rim)

Cr. Cyms. *mp*





Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

Bar. Sax. *f*

Tpt. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *f*

Tuba *f*

Mlt. Perc. *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

Timp.

29

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

29

Tpt. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Mlt. Perc. *mp*  
Xyl. (w/plastic mallets)

Perc. 1 *mp*  
(on rim)

Perc. 2 *mp*  
Guero

Timp. *mp*  
Cr. Cyms. *mp*



37 Mournfully (maintain tempo)

41

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

*p*

*p*

*p*

37 Mournfully (maintain tempo)

41

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

*p*

*p*

*div.*

*p*

*p*

Mlt. Perc.

Chimes

*mf*

Field Drum (snares off)  
(opt. S.D. w/snare off)

*mf*

Flexatone

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

L.L.R. (etc.)

*p*

Timp.

*mf*

*p*

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

Tpt. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Mlt. Perc. Xyl. *p*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 Guiro *p* Vibraslap *p*

Timp. *mp*

49

Fl. *mp* *f* *p*

Ob. *mp* *f* *p*

Cl. *f* *p*

B. Cl. *f* *p*

A. Sax. *f* *p*

T. Sax. *f* *p*

Bar. Sax. *f* *p*

49

Tpt. *f* *p*

Hn. *f* *p*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *f* *p*

Tuba *f* *p*

Mlt. Perc. *mp*

Perc. 1 *f* *p*

Perc. 2 *mp* *mp*

Timp. *f* *mp*

47

48

49

50

Fl. *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

Cl. *f* *p*

B. Cl. *f* *p*

A. Sax. *f* *p*

T. Sax. *f* *p*

Bar. Sax. *f* *p*

Tpt. *f* *p*

Hn. *f* *p*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *f* *p*

Tuba *f* *p*

Mlt. Perc. *f* *p*

Perc. 1 *f* *p*

Perc. 2

Timp. *f* *mp* *p*

PREVIEW ONLY  
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rit.

61 Frantically! ♩ = 168

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

rit.

div.

61 Frantically! ♩ = 168

Xyl.

f

(on rim)

This musical score page contains parts for the following instruments:

- Fl. (Flute)
- Ob. (Oboe)
- Cl. (Clarinet)
- B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet)
- A. Sax. (Alto Saxophone)
- T. Sax. (Tenor Saxophone)
- Bar. Sax. (Baritone Saxophone)
- Tpt. (Trumpet)
- Hn. (Horn)
- Tbn./Bar./Bsn. (Tuba/Euphonium/Baritone)
- Tuba
- Mlt. Perc. (Multiple Percussion)
- Perc. 1
- Perc. 2
- Timp. (Timpani)

The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It features various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings such as *div.* (divisi) and *f* (forte). The percussion parts include patterns for snare drum, cymbals, and timpani.

Preview Only  
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Fl. *p* *ff*

Ob. *p* *ff*

Cl. *p* *ff*

B. Cl. *p* *ff*

A. Sax. *p* *ff*

T. Sax. *p* *ff*

Bar. Sax. *p* *ff*

Tpt. *p* *ff*

Hn. *p* *ff*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *p* *ff*

Tuba *p* *ff*

Mlt. Perc. *p* *ff* damp.

Perc. 1 *p* *ff* damp. Solo damp.

Perc. 2 *p* *ff* ch. *ff* ch.

Timp. *p* *ff* damp. damp.