



Mischief

ROBERT THURSTON

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Piccolo	1
Flute 1	4
Flute 2	8
Oboe	2
B♭ Clarinet 1	4
B♭ Clarinet 2	4
B♭ Clarinet 3	4
Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
Alto Saxophone 1	2
Alto Saxophone 2	2
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet 1	4
B♭ Trumpet 2	4
B♭ Trumpet 3	4
Horn in F 1	2
Horn in F 2	2
Horn in F 3	2
Horn in F 4	2
Trombone 1	3
Trombone 2	3
Trombone 3	3
Euphonium	3
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallet	4
Bells, Chimes, Xylophone, opt. Marimba	
Percussion 1	4
Snare Drum, Small Tom-tom or Tenor Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	4
Guiro, Woodblock, Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Bongos	
Percussion 3	4
Cabasa, Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Ratchet	



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Robert Thurston, former Chief Arranger-Composer for the US Air Force Band in Washington DC, devoted his 20-year Air Force career to writing in a variety of musical styles and genres for the service's premier ensembles, and for a long roster of internationally renowned guest artists. Before joining the military, he taught school bands for five years in Florida and Ohio. Since retiring from the Air Force in 2014, he has continued to write music full-time. He is also the conductor of the Prince William Community Band in Prince William County, Virginia.

ABOUT MISCHIEF

The original title of *Mischief* was *Dancing On Marbles*. I wrote it for the Sidney Lanier Middle School Band in Fairfax, Virginia, directed by Charlie Burts and Joe Denti. Charlie conducted the premier performance on June 11, 2014. At the time, the piece was shorter, and all one tempo—just the two outer sections of this version, which are essentially identical to the original. We went with *Dancing on Marbles* as the title to evoke that giddy, fun-scary feeling of trying to keep your footing on unsteady ground ... or of trying to keep a group of young musicians together as they navigate oscillating odd-time signatures: either way, you're essentially daring gravity itself to do what gravity does.

Later on, as I was adding in the slower, dreamy middle section, I realized this piece wasn't *only* about the dizzy thrill of dancing on marbles. I was picturing young children, with their wide-eyed, innocent-yet-mischievous happiness and curiosity ... not to mention their turn-on-a-dime mood shifts.

The outer sections of *Mischief* alternate between 3/4 (with a random 4/4 here and there to keep you honest) and the "hook" of the piece, written in a 5/8+7/8 pattern.* I could have kept those passages in 3, using ties and accents, but Charlie Burts correctly predicted his students would catch on to the 5+7 as long as it was consistent throughout the piece. Sure enough, he told me those sections came together quickly and ended up being less rehearsal-intensive than the parts in 3/4.

After the intro, *Mischief* introduces a melody (m. 9) that's kind of erratic and herky-jerky—not unlike an emerging toddler's rookie attempts at getting around the way grownups do. In the minor-key iterations of the 5+7 sections—basically from 76 (*Poco crabbioso*) through 121—I couldn't help thinking of a 2- or 3-year-old getting increasingly tired, cranky and stubborn before finally curling up with a bottle and succumbing to a nap (121-130). The dreamy section at 131 is all butterflies, unicorns, kittens, and magical super-powers. At 159 the inner imp starts to whisper, "Pssst! Wake up!", and from 175 to the end, it's basically the ecstatic dance of a little human who's loving every minute of being alive and awake, and having the best time ever.

* Important note about those 5+7 sections: The dotted bar lines are simply to highlight the meter shift—it's still a 2-bar figure. So the tacet players who have to count through multimeasure rests there must count each 5/8 as one measure, and each 7/8 as one measure.



9

Picc. *f* *pp*

Fl. 1, 2 *f* *pp*

Ob. *f* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *f* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *f* *pp*

B. Cl. *pp* *mf* *sim.*

Bsn. *pp* *mf* *sim.*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *f* *pp* *mf* *sim.*

T. Sax. *pp* *mf* *sim.*

B. Sax. *pp* *mf* *sim.*

9

B♭ Tpt. 1 *pp*

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *pp*

Hn. 1, 3 *pp*

Hn. 2, 4 *pp*

Tbn. 1, 2 *pp*

Tbn. 3 *pp*

Euph. *pp* *mf* *sim.*

Tuba *pp* *mf* *sim.*

Timp. *pp*

Mal. *f* *mp* *Xylo. (opt. + Marimba 8vb)*

Perc. 1 *pp*

Perc. 2 *mp* *2 Wood Blocks*

Perc. 3 *f*

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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

5

Picc.
 Fl. 1, 2
 Ob.
 B $\flat$ Cl. 1
 B $\flat$ Cl. 2, 3
 B. Cl.
 Bsn.
 A. Sax. 1, 2
 T. Sax.
 B. Sax.
 B $\flat$ Tpt. 1
 B $\flat$ Tpt. 2, 3
 Hn. 1, 3
 Hn. 2, 4
 Tbn. 1, 2
 Tbn. 3
 Euph.
 Tuba
 Timp.
 Mal.
 Perc. 1
 Perc. 2
 Perc. 3

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7

33

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Sus. Cym.

Bells

f

mp

p

pp

l.v.

41

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

42 43 44 45 46 47 48

49

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2 *f*

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

49

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *f*

Hn. 1, 3 *f*

Hn. 2, 4 *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *f*

Tbn. 3 *f*

Euph.

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Xyl.

Msl. *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f* Cr. Cym.

Perc. 3 *f*

49 50 51 52 53 54 55

62

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76 *pp* Poco crabbioso

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85

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MCB1906FS

105

110

MCB1906FS

125

133

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

cresc.

pp

cresc.

mf

f

mf

mp

p

Tutti

pp

cresc.

mf

mp

p

Tutti

pp

cresc.

mf

mp

p

Open

Open

Bells

Cue: Oboe

Cue: Cl. 1

poco rit. **147** *A tempo, with more motion*

Picc. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Fl. 1, 2 *cresc.* *f*

Ob. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Cl. 1 2 pl. div. *mp* *cresc.* *f* Tutti

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *cresc.* *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *p* *cresc.* *f*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *f*

T. Sax. *p* *cresc.* *f*

B. Sax. *f*

poco rit. **147** *A tempo, with more motion*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *mp* *f*

Hn. 1, 3 *p* *f*

Hn. 2, 4 *p* *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *p* *f*

Tbn. 3 *p* *f*

Euph. *p* *cresc.* *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f* A♭ to B♭

Mal.

Perc. 1 *f* Cr. Cym. *p*

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *pp* *ff* *p*

pp *ff* *p*

155

Picc. *più f* *dim.*

Fl. 1,2 *più f* *dim.* *p*

Ob. *più f* *dim.* *p*

B♭ Cl. 1 *più f* *dim.* *p*

B♭ Cl. 2,3 *dim.* *p*

B. Cl. *dim.* *pp*

Bsn. *dim.*

A. Sax. 1,2 *più f* *dim.* *pp*

T. Sax. *dim.*

B. Sax. *pp*

155

B♭ Tpt. 1 *più f* *dim.* *pp*

B♭ Tpt. 2,3 *dim.*

Hn. 1,3 *più f* *f* *dim.* *pp*

Hn. 2,4 *dim.*

Tbn. 1,2 *dim.*

Tbn. 3 *dim.*

Euph. *dim.* Cue: Tuba *pp* *sim.*

Tuba *dim.* *pp* *sim.*

Timp. *pp* *sim.*

Chimes

Mal. *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *ff*

poco rit. **163** Sleepily ♩ = c. 92

Picc. *pp*

Fl. 1, 2 *p*

Ob. *p*

B♭ Cl. 1 *p* Solo *mp* 2nd Div.

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *p*

B. Cl. *mp impishly* *p* *ten.* *p*

Bsn. *mp impishly* *p* *ten.* *p*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *pp* Cue: Cl. 1, 2 *p*

T. Sax. *mp impishly* *p* *ten.* *p* Cue: Cl. 3

B. Sax. *mp impishly* *p* *ten.* *p*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *pp* *poco rit.* **163** Sleepily ♩ = c. 92

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *pp*

Hn. 1, 3 *pp* Cue: Horn 2, 4 *p*

Hn. 2, 4 *pp* *p*

Tbn. 1, 2 *pp* *p* Cue: Tbn. 3 *pp* *p*

Tbn. 3 *pp* *p*

Euph. *pp* *ten.* *p*

Tuba *p*

Timp.

Mal. *Xyl. p impishly* *Bells p* *Xyl. p*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *Tri. mp*

Perc. 3

159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166

Mischief - Full Score

poco rit. ♩ = c. 80

Picc. Solo

Fl. 1, 2 *mp* Tutti

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1 *espress.*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 2nd Unis.

B. Cl. 3

Bsn. 3

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax. 3

poco rit. ♩ = c. 80

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4 *p* *dolce*

Tbn. 1, 2 *p* *dolce*

Tbn. 3 *p* *dolce*

Euph. *p* *dolce*

Tuba

Timp.

Mal. Vib. (opt. Bells but not both) *mp* Bells *mf* Bells *p* (if Vibes not available, use Bells only)

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Tri. *p*

Perc. 3 Sus. Cym. *pp* *f*

5 7
8+8

5 7
8+8

5 7
8+8

5 7
8+8

5 7
8+8

167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175

176 Tempo I

Picc.

Fl. 1,2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

5 7

8+8

3 4

176 Tempo I

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

5 7

8+8

3 4

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

5 7

8+8

3 4

pp

cresc. poco a poco

p

Bongos

p

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

Tamb.

p

cresc. poco a poco

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

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208

211

216 All the happies!

Picc. *mf* *f*
 Fl. 1, 2 *mp* *f*
 Ob. *mp* *f*
 B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *f*
 B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *mp* *f*
 B. Cl. *cresc.* *f*
 Bsn. *mp* *cresc.* *f*
 A. Sax. 1, 2 *mp* *cresc.* *f*
 T. Sax. *mp* *cresc.* *f*
 B. Sax. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f*
 B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *f*
 Hn. 1, 3 *mf* *f*
 Hn. 2, 4 *mf* *f*
 Tbn. 1, 2 *f*
 Tbn. 3 *f*
 Euph. *p* cheerfully ... but impatiently *f*
 Tuba *p* cheerfully ... but impatiently *f*
 Timp. *p* cheerfully ... but impatiently *f*
 Mal. *cresc.* *f* (Bells only)
 Perc. 1 *f*
 Perc. 2 *f* Cr. Cym.
 Perc. 3 *f*

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232

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

232

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

fp

Bells + Xylo.

f

ff

228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235

Picc. *p* *ff*
 Fl. 1,2 *p* *mf* *ff*
 Ob. *p* *cresc.* *mf* *ff*
 B♭ Cl. 1 *p* *mf* *ff*
 B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *p* *cresc.* *mf* *ff*
 B. Cl. *p* *cresc.* *ff*
 Bsn. *p* *cresc.* *ff*
 A. Sax. 1, 2 *p* *cresc.* *fp*
 T. Sax. *p* *cresc.* *ff*
 B. Sax. *p* *cresc.* *ff*
 B♭ Tpt. 1 *ff*
 B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *ff*
 Hn. 1, 3 *p* *cresc.* *ff* *fp* *ff*
 Hn. 2, 4 *p* *cresc.* *ff* *fp* *ff*
 Tbn. 1, 2 *ff*
 Tbn. 3 *ff*
 Euph. *ff*
 Tuba *p* *cresc.* *ff*
 Timp. *mf* *ff*
 Mal. *ff* Xyl. *ff*
 Perc. 1 *p* *f*
 Perc. 2 *f* molto staccato
 Perc. 3 *f*



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