

# IN THE CENTER RING

By Robert Sheldon

**I**n *the Center Ring* was written in the autumn of 2003 for the Upper Antioch Grade School Band from Antioch, Illinois, Earl Bush, director. The piece is a musical snapshot of a circus performance, from the madcap antics of the jugglers and clowns to the elegance of the high-wire and trapeze performers. This wild musical romp is certainly a technical challenge, but is also great fun for the performer and listener alike.

The initial tempo is marked  $\text{♩} = 160$  or faster. Although the piece will work at a slower tempo, the real spirit of the piece is more evident if played at high speed. Care must be taken not to play it too fast, however, or the piece will seem out of control and the nuances will be lost. Measures 21, 65 and 106 are similar but each feature a different effect in the percussion; be sure that the timpani “boing!”, ratchet and police whistle are clearly heard as the “solo” voice. The accents in the mixed-meter sections should be played with energy and separation so as to let the music “dance.” The conductor may wish to take a slight *rallentando* in measures 81-83 (and similarly at measure 94 if desired) with a return to tempo at measure 84. It is very important that the triangle and orchestra bells be clearly heard in the final measure on beat 2 without having to play above the dynamic indicated. This may be a challenge given the acoustics of some performance sites! For this reason, the other players must play the downbeat of the final measure quite short so as to allow as much space before beat 2 for their sound to decay prior to the “ting”. The final stinger should be quite energetic!

Above all, remember this is a theatrical piece—so emphasize the dynamics, bring out the inherent comedy and have FUN!

## Instrumentation

- |                                  |                           |                               |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 — Conductor Score              | 3 — 1st B $\flat$ Trumpet | 4 — Mallet Percussion         |
| 10 — Flute/Piccolo               | 3 — 2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet | (Orchestra Bells,             |
| 2 — Oboe                         | 3 — 3rd B $\flat$ Trumpet | Xylophone/Vibraphone/         |
| 2 — Bassoon                      | 2 — 1st F Horn            | Chimes)                       |
| 4 — 1st B $\flat$ Clarinet       | 1 — 2nd F Horn            | 2 — Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, |
| 4 — 2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet       | 2 — 1st Trombone          | Bass Drum)                    |
| 4 — 3rd B $\flat$ Clarinet       | 2 — 2nd Trombone          | 4 — Percussion 2 (Sus.Cymbal/ |
| 1 — E $\flat$ Alto Clarinet      | 2 — 3rd Trombone          | Triangle/Ratchet/Police       |
| 2 — B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet      | 2 — Baritone B.C.         | Whistle, Crash Cymbals/       |
| 2 — 1st E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone | 2 — Baritone T.C.         | Tambourine/Whip)              |
| 2 — 2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone | 4 — Tuba                  | 1 — Timpani                   |
| 2 — B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone    | Percussion – 7 players:   |                               |
| 1 — E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone |                           |                               |

**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.



# In the Center Ring

FULL SCORE  
Duration - 4:25

Robert Sheldon  
Op. 97

**Scherzando** ♩ = 160 (or faster!)

Flute & Piccolo

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinets

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophones

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpets

F Horns

Trombones

Baritone

Tuba

Mallet Percussion  
(Orchestra Bells, Xylophone/Vibraphone/Chimes)

Percussion 1  
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2  
(Suspended Cymbal/Triangle/Ratchet/Police Whistle, Crash Cymbals/Tambourine/Whip)

Timpani





14

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn. *mf*

1  
2  
3  
Cls.

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Saxes 1/2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

14

1  
2  
3  
Tpts.

Hns. 1/2 *mf*

1  
2  
3  
Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc. Xylo. *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp. *mf*

14 15 16 17

Fl./Picc. 22

Ob.

Bsn. *f*

Cls. 1 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2 *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *f* *ff*

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3 22 *f* *ff* *a2* *ff*

Hns. 1 2 *f* *ff*

Trbs. 1 2 3 *f* *ff*

Bar. *f* *ff*

Tuba *f* *ff*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2

Timp. "boing!" *fff* gliss. Cr. Cym. *ff*

18 19 20 21 22



Musical score for woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The score is divided into measures 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32. The woodwind section includes Flute/Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet (1 and 2/3), Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone (1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpets (1 and 2/3), Horns (1 and 2), Trombones (1 and 2/3), Baritone, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Milt. Perc., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, and Timp. The score features various dynamics such as *mp* and *p*, and includes performance markings like accents and breath marks. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.





FL./Picc.  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
Cls. 1  
Cls. 2  
A. Cl.  
B. Cl.  
A. Saxes 1  
A. Saxes 2  
T. Sax.  
Bar. Sax.  
Tpts. 1  
Tpts. 2  
Hns. 1  
Hns. 2  
Trbs. 1  
Trbs. 2  
Trbs. 3  
Bar.  
Tuba  
Mlt. Perc.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Timp.

38 39 40 41 42



52

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
Cls.

2  
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1  
Tpts.

2  
3

Hns.

1  
2

Trbs.

2  
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

48 49 50 51 52

*f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

+Picc.

Chimes

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Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Trbs. 1 2 3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

53 54 55 56 57

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58

Fl./Picc. *ff f*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *ff mf*

1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3

Cl. *ff*

A. Cl. *ff mf*

B. Cl. *ff mf*

A. Sax. 1 *ff mf*

2

T. Sax. *ff mf*

Bar. Sax. *ff mf*

58

1 *ff f*

2 *ff mf*

3

Tpts. *ff mf*

Hns. *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3

Trbs. *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *ff mf*

Mlt. Perc. *ff* Bells Xylo. *ff*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Timp. *ff mf*

58 59 60 61

66

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
Cls.

2  
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1  
Tpts.

2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

1  
Trbs.

2  
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

62 63 64 65 66

*f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

*a2* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Ratchet *ff* Cr. Cym.



Fl./Picc. *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *f* *mf* solo

Cl. 2 *f* *a2* *mf*

Cl. 3 *f* *mf*

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 *a2* *f* *mf*

A. Sax. 2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

Tpts. 1 *mf*

Tpts. 2 *mf*

Tpts. 3 *mf*

Hns. 1 *mf*

Hns. 2 *mf*

Trbs. 1 *mf*

Trbs. 2 *mf*

Trbs. 3 *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *mf* *mp* *p*

Perc. 1 *mf* *mp* *p*

Perc. 2

Timp.



71 **Grazioso** ♩ = 72

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cls.

2 Cls.

3 Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

71 **Grazioso** ♩ = 72

1 Tpts.

2 Tpts.

3 Tpts.

1 Hns.

2 Hns.

1 Trbs.

2 Trbs.

3 Trbs.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

Fl./Picc. *mf* solo Flute

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
2  
3  
Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1  
2  
3  
Tpts.

1  
2  
Hns.

1  
2  
3  
Trbs.

Bar. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *Tri.* *mp*

Timp.

84

Fl./Picc. *mp*

Ob.

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *p* *a2*

Cl. 2 *p*

Cl. 3 *p*

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 *p*

A. Sax. 2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

Tpts. 1 *mf*

Tpts. 2 *a2* *f*

Tpts. 3 *mf* *f* *a2*

Hns. 1 *mf*

Hns. 2 *mf*

Trbs. 1 *mf*

Trbs. 2 *mf*

Trbs. 3 *mf*

Bar. *mf*

Tuba *mp* *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *mp* Bells Vibes *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Sus. Cym. scrape *mf*

Timp. *mp* *mf*

80

81

82

83

84

85

Fl./Picc. -Picc. *f* *a2*

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls. 1 *f* *a2*  
2  
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1  
2  
3

Hns. 1/2 *f*

Trbs. 1  
2  
3

Bar. *f*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Tri. *mf*

Timp.

86 87 88 89 90

Fl./Picc. *mf* *p* *div.*

Ob.

Bsn. *mp*

Cl. 1 *mf* *p*

Cl. 2 3

A. Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. 1 2 *mp*

T. Sax. *mp* *p*

Bar. Sax. *mp* *p*

Tpts. 1 *mp*

Tpts. 2 3 *mp*

Hns. 1 2 *mp*

Trbs. 1 *mp* *p*

Trbs. 2 3 *mp* *p*

Bar. *mp* *p*

Tuba *mp* *p*

Mlt. Perc. *p* Bells

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *p* Sus. Cym. scrape

Timp.

91

92

93

94

95

96

Tempo Primo ♩ = 160

99

FL./Picc. *ff* *f*

Ob. *ff* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *mf*

Cl. 1 *ff* *f*

Cl. 2/3 *ff* *f*

A. Cl. *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf*

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

T. Sax. *ff* *mf*

Bar. Sax. *ff* *mf*

Tempo Primo ♩ = 160

99

Tpts. 1 *f*

Tpts. 2/3

Hns. 1/2 *ff* *mf*

Trbs. 1 *ff*

Trbs. 2/3 *ff*

Bar. *ff*

Tuba *ff* *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff* *mf*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Timp. *ff*

97 98 99 100 101

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
Cls.

2  
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1  
Tpts.

2  
3

Hns. 1/2

1  
Trbs.

2  
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

102 *mf* 103 104 105 106

Police Whistle *ff*

107

Fl./Picc. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *mf*

1 Cls. *f* *ff*

2 3 Cls. *f* *ff*

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2 *ff* *mf* *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *ff*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

107

1 Tpts. *ff* *div.* *a2*

2 3 Tpts. *ff*

Hns. 1 2 *ff*

1 Trbs.

2 3 Trbs.

Bar. *ff*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. Xylo. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff* *p*

Perc. 2 Cr. Cym. *mf* *f*

Timp. *mf* *f*

107 108 109 110 111

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113

Fl./Picc. *f* -Picc.

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *mf*

1 *mp*

2 *mp*

3

A. Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

113

1

2

3

Tpts.

Hns. *f*

1

2

3

Trbs.

Bar. *f*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *p* Tamb. *mp*

Timp.

121

Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.  
1  
2  
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes  
1  
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.  
1  
2  
3

Hns.  
1  
2

Trbs.  
1  
2  
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It features staves for woodwinds (Flute/Piccobello, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets, Alto and Bass Clarinets), saxophones (Alto, Tenor, Baritone), brass (Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Baritone, Tuba), and percussion (Mallet Percussion, Percussion 1 & 2, Timpani). The score spans measures 117 to 121. Measure 121 is specifically marked with a box containing the number '121'. Dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) are used throughout. The percussion section includes a 'Bells' part in measure 121. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page, reading 'Preview Requires Purchase'.

117

118

119

120

121

FL./Picc. Ob. Bsn. Cls. 1 2 3 A. Cl. B. Cl. A. Saxes 1 2 T. Sax. Bar. Sax. Tpts. 1 2 3 Hns. 1 2 Trbs. 1 2 3 Bar. Tuba Mlt. Perc. Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Timp.

*div.*  
*mf*  
*f*

122

123

124

125

126



Fl./Picc. *+Picc.* *div.* *-Picc.* *mp*

Ob.

Bsn.

1 Cls. *mp*

2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1 2 *a2* *mp*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1 Tpts. *mp*

2 3

Hns. 1 2

1 Trbs.

2 3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. *Bells* *mp*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *Tri.* *mf*

Timp.

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136

Fl./Picc. *ff* +Picc. *a2*

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

1 Cls. *ff*

2 3 Cls. *ff*

A. Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

A. Saxes 1 2 *ff*

T. Sax. *ff*

Bar. Sax. *ff*

136

1 Tpts. *ff*

2 3 Tpts. *ff*

Hns. 1 2 *ff*

1 Trbs. *ff*

2 3 Trbs. *ff*

Bar. *mf* *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Mlt. Perc. Xylo. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Timp. Cr. Cym. *ff*

136 137 138 *ff* 139 140

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Fl./Picc.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
Cls.

2  
3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes 1  
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1  
Tpts.

2  
3

Hns. 1  
2

1  
Trbs.

2  
3

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.

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141 142 143 *ff* 144 145

Solo

