

# ILLUSIONS

**John Buller**

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Music Department  
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*Oxford*

'*Illusions*' was commissioned by the BBC for the Cheltenham Festival 1997, and the first performance was given in the Town Hall, Cheltenham on 5th. July by the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Vassily Sinaisky

## Instrumentation

3 flutes (2nd doubling alto flute, 3rd doubling piccolo)

2 oboes

cor anglais

2 clarinets in B flat

2 bassoons

double bassoon

4 horns in F

3 trumpets in C

2 tenor trombones

bass trombone

percussion (2 players):

I

vibraphone

5 wood blocks

3 temple blocks

3 suspended cymbals (small, medium, large)

3 tom-toms

castanets

1 timpanum (28")

II

pair of bongos (sticks)

2 timbales

3 roto-toms

tam-tam

tambourine

16 violins

10 violas

7 cellos

5 basses (at least one of which should be 5-string for bottom C)

The following symbols are used in this score:

- ✱ as fast as possible whilst keeping relative rhythmic groupings, usually *senza colore* and *legato*
- ✕ no time signature
- ▼ 'warning' or 'marking' beat
- ▽ resumption of principal beat
- † quarter sharp
- ‡ three-quarters sharp

# Illusions

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*freely but ca. ♩ = 100*

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes Piccolo (Picc.), Flute 1 (Fl. 1.), Flute 2 (2.), Oboe 1 (Ob. 1.), Oboe 2 (2.), Clarinet in A (Cl. A.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. Bb.), Clarinet in Bb (2.), Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1.), and Bassoon 2 (2.). The brass section includes Percussion and Vibraphone (Perc. Vib.), Horns (Hns.), and Trumpets (Trps.). The score features a complex, rhythmic melody with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. A large blue watermark 'PREVIEW FILE ONLY' is oriented diagonally across the center of the page. The vibraphone part includes the instruction 'f Pedal, Motor off'.

1

2 4 ♩ 100 ca. (wind free)

33

Picc.

FL. 1

2

Ob. 1

2

CA.

CL. 1

2

Bsn. 1

2

Hrn 1/2

3/4

Trp. 2

3

Trb. 1/2

3

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Perc.

Vib.

VL.

Vla.

Vlc.

1-4, 5-8  
pp  
9-12, 13-16  
pp  
1-3, 4-6  
pp  
7-10  
pp  
2-4, 5-7  
pp

3 2  
8

Ob.1 *mf* 120

2 *mf*

C.A. *mf*

Vl. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc.1 *mf* SOLO

2-4,5-7 *mf*



3

Ob.1 *pp*

2 *pp*

C.A. *pp*

Vl. 1-4, 5-8 *gliss.*

Vla. 1-3, 4-6 *gliss.*

Vlc.1 *gliss.*

2-4, 5-7 *gliss.*

100 where metrical

FL.1  
2  
Ob.1  
2  
C.A.  
CL.1  
Bsn.1  
Vl.  
Vla.  
Vlc.

4

mp

mp

mp

Empty musical staves for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Clarinet in A, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon 1, Bassoon 2, Horn in F, Trumpet 1, and Trombone 1.

5

3  
8

*exc' free lines*

2  
8

8  
8

*Piu mosso*  
♩ = 120 (*ditto free*)

Musical score for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Clarinet in A, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon 1, Bassoon 2, Horn in F, Trumpet 1, and Trombone 1. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (mf), and articulation marks (accents, asterisks). A large blue watermark 'Preview File Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Picc.

Fl. 1.

2.

Ob. 1.

2.

C.A.

Cl. 1.

2.

Bsn. 1.

Hr. 1/2.

3/4.

Trp. 1.

2.

Tr. b. 1.

2.

VL.

Vla.

Vlc.

DB.



Picc.  
FL. 1  
2.  
Ob. 1.  
2.  
CA.  
CL. 1.  
2.  
Bsnl

Hn. 1/2  
3/4  
Trp. 2  
3  
Trb. 1/2  
3

Vl.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
DB.

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8

5

6

8

♩ 100

Picc.

FL. 1

2

Ob. 1

2

CA.

CL. 1

2

Bsn. 1

2

C.Bsn.

Hn. 1/2

3/4

Trp. 1/2

3

Trb. 1/2

3

Perc. 1/2

Large cymbal

Timbale

small

Vl.

Vla.

Vlc.

DB.

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Handwritten musical score for a symphony orchestra. The score is divided into several systems. The first system includes woodwinds (Piccolo, Flutes 1 & 2, Oboes 1 & 2, Clarinets 1 & 2, Bassoons 1 & 2, and Contrabassoon) and strings (Horn 1/2, Trumpet 1/2 & 3, Trombone 1/2 & 3). The second system includes Percussion (Large cymbal, Timbale, small) and strings (Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass). The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, dynamics (f, p, pp), and articulation marks. A large diagonal watermark 'PREVIEW FILE ONLY' is overlaid across the center of the page. Above the first system, there are markings for rehearsal points: a downward-pointing triangle above measure 5, and a downward-pointing triangle above measure 6, with a box containing the number '7' above measure 8. A tempo marking '♩ 100' is present at the top right of the first system.

8

7

6

88

*ritardando*

Fl. 2 to Alto Fl.

ca. ♩. 76

FL 1/2

Ob 1/2

CL 1/2

VL 1/6

VL 7/11  
12/16

VA 1/5  
6/10

VC 1/3  
4/7

con sord *sul tasto*

con sord *pp sul tasto*

con sord *pp sul tasto*

con sord *pp sul tasto*

con sord *pp sul tasto*

con sord *pp sul tasto*

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ca. ♩. 100

ca. ♩. 80

ca. ♩. 88

FL.

CL. 1

CA.

Hr. 1

VL.

Vi.

Vla.

Vcl.

*opt. freely varying rests*

*opt. freely varying rests*

*opt. freely varying rests*

9

FL. 1 *opt. freely varying rests*

Ob. 1 *opt. repeat freely varying rests*

CA.

CL. 1 *opt. freely*

2. *opt. freely*  
*opt. varying rests*

Hrn. 1 *opt. freely*

VL. *off sord.*

VL. *sfs. nat.*

Vla. *div. 2*

Vlc. *sfs*

DB. *mf*

*mf*



5 7 6  
8 8 8

10

FL.1  
Ob.1  
CA.  
CL.1  
2  
Bsnf

S  
T  
O  
P

*Crescendo*

Hn. 1/2  
3/4  
Trp. 1  
3  
Trb. 1/2  
3

*sord off*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*

*a2*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*f*  
*f*

Rototoms

*freely*  
*mf*

Large cymbal  
*mf*

Timboles  
*f*

Vib.  
*f*  
L.V.

VL.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
DB.

*con sord div nat.*  
*c. s. div nat.*  
*c. s. div. A*





14 small cymbal medium large crystal To Tam-Tam 2 4 12  $\text{♩} = 100$

Perc. *p* L.V. *p* L.V. *p* single stroke

8ve *p* *stampa frenetico! fast - ca.  $\text{♩} = 120$*

5/8 8ve

9/12 8ve

13/16 8ve UNTIL

Vla 1/4

5/8

Vlc 1/3 1-3

Vcl 4/7 *p* *ff*



7 8 (except wind) 5 8 13

FL 1 *freely  $\text{♩} = 112$*  *a niente  $\text{♩} = 72$*

A/FL *ca.  $\text{♩} = 100$*  *pp* *ca.  $\text{♩} = 116$*  *a niente* *A*

Bsn 1 *pp* *a niente*

C. Bsn. *pp possibile*

Vla 1 *strings senza sord* *Vla 1* *long slow gliss* *p*

Vla 2/3 *pp*

Vlc 1/3 *pp*

4/5 *pp*

6/7 *pp*

4/3 *pp*

DB. *pp*



ca. 69/72

*freeky and flowing without scrambling*

A.F.L.

Vlc.1

C.A.

C.Bsn.

*breath ad lib.*

Vla.1

2/3

4/5

6/7

8/9

10

D.B.

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A.F.L.

Vlc.

C.A.

C.Bsn.

Vla.1

2/3

4/5

6/7

8/9/10

D.B.

OOO

1/4

A.Fl.

Vlc.1

C.A.

Perc.

*Piu mosso* ♩ 120

Med. Cymbal

*p* *mp* *p*

vl. 1/3

4/6

7/4

10/12

13/14

15/16

Vla. 1/2

3/5

6/8

9/10

Vlc. 2/3

4/5

6/7

DB 1/2

3/4

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4  
4

*sim.*

A.F.I.  
Vlc. I  
C.A.

*A niente*

vl. 1/3  
4/6  
7/4  
10/12  
13/14  
15/16  
Vla 1/2  
3/5  
6/8  
9/10  
Vlc. 2/3  
4/5  
6/7

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A Fl. *to Fl. 2*

Vlc. 1

C.A.

16

5 7 4 2 4

8 8 4 4 4

*All wind freely, ff and marcato*

Picc.

FL. 1/2

Ob. 1

2

CL. 1

2

Perc.

5 woodblocks *freely*

3 templeblocks

\* Flr. 1+2 should not synchronise, despite identical notation







FL.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

C.Bsn.

Hr.

Trp.

Trb.

Perc.

VL.

Vla.

Vlc.

D.B. 1/2

3/6

The musical score for page 19, measures 22-24, is presented in a standard orchestral layout. The instruments are listed on the left: Flute (FL.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Cor Anglais (C.Bsn.), Horns (Hr.), Trumpets (Trp.), Trombones (Trb.), Percussion (Perc.), Violins (VL.), Violas (Vla.), Cellos (Vlc.), and Double Basses (D.B. 1/2). The time signature is 3/6. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (mf, f, ff, sim), articulation (accents), and performance instructions like 'Timp to'. A large blue watermark 'PROOF FILE ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.



5 20 4

Picc. *ff*

FL. 1 *ff*

Ob1 *ff*

C.A. *ff*

Cl. 1. *ff*

Bsn<sup>1/2</sup> *f* *ff*

C.Bsn. *f* *ff*

Hn<sup>1/2</sup> *ff*

Trp<sup>1/2</sup> *ff*

Trb<sup>1/2</sup> *ff*

Perc. *Vib.* *mf* *Ped. Motor off*  
*Tam-Tam* *metal beater LV.*

Vl. *Sim.* *arco, sul pont.* *1-3* *4-6* *7-8* *9-10* *16* *pp*

Vla. *Sim.* *arco, sul pont.* *1-3* *4-6* *7-8* *9-10* *16* *pp*

Vlc. *Sim.* *tutti, arco, sul pont.* *1-3* *4-6* *7-8* *9-10* *16* *pp*

DB<sup>1/2</sup> *f* *ff*

DB<sup>3/6</sup> *f* *ff*

*\* rapid arpeggio across strings between bridge and hippos.*

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4 5 4 5 rit. ---

Picc.  
Fl. 1/2  
Ob. 1/2  
CA.  
Cl. 1/2  
Bsn. 1/2

Hr. 1/2  
3/4  
Trp. 1/2  
3

Vib  
Perc.

*f* Ped. *gliss* *off* *f* Ped. *sim* *off*

VL.  
Vla.  
Vlc. 1  
D.B.  
D.B.

*rit.* ---

88 21  $\text{♩} 120$

Pic. *freely* *mf* *to Fl. 3* *p*

Ob. *freely* *mf* *p*

Cl. *freely* *mf* *p*

Bsn. *mf* *p*

Perc. *Med. Cymbal*  
*p* *mp* *niente*

Vl. *mp* *a niente* *unis, nat. III IV*

Vla. *mp* *a niente* *very slow gliss*  
*slow gliss to G* *pp possible*

Vlc. *mp* *a niente*

Vlc. *mp* *a niente*

DB. *mp* *a niente*

FL. *1* *mf* *p*

Ob. 1 *mf* *p*

Cl. 1 *mf* *p*

Vl.  $\frac{1}{8}$  *unis, nat. I II* *pp possible* *very slow gliss*

$\frac{9}{16}$  *unis, nat. III IV* *pp possible* *very slow gliss*  
*pp possible* *very slow gliss.* *ppp & pppp cresc.*

Vla. *pp possible* *very slow gliss*

Vlc.  $\frac{1}{4}$  *unis, nat.* *pp possible* *very slow gliss*

Vlc. *pp possible* *very slow gliss*

22

FL. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Wind sempre *p*

VL. *poco a poco cresc.*

Vla.

Vlc.  $\frac{1}{4}$



FL.  $\frac{1}{2}$  *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl.

VL. *poco a poco cresc. ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vlc.  $\frac{1}{4}$  *ff*



25

10  
8

FL. 1  
2  
3  
C.A.

*Piu mosso* *Meno mosso* ♩ 104 ca.

138 *mf*

Hrn. 1  
2  
3  
4  
Trb. 1  
2  
3

Vla.  
Vlc. 1/2  
DB.

*uniz. nat.* *mf* *p* *mf*

*a2 freely but* ♩ 72 ca.

1/2 *mp*

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Musical score for measures 6 and 7. The score includes parts for Flute 1 (FL. 1), Flute 2, Flute 3, Oboe 1 (Ob. 1), Clarinet in A (CA.), Violin (Vla.), Viola (Vlc.), and Double Bass (DB.).

- Measure 6: Flutes 1-3 play a rhythmic pattern. Oboe 1 has a whole rest. Clarinet in A has a whole rest. Violin and Viola play a melodic line. Double Bass has a whole rest.
- Measure 7: Flutes 1-3 continue. Oboe 1 has a solo starting at measure 7, marked *p* and *120 ca.*. Clarinet in A continues. Violin and Viola continue. Double Bass continues.



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26

Musical score for measures 26 and 27. The score includes parts for Flute 1 (FL. 1), Flute 2, Flute 3, Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in A (CA.), Violin (Vla.), Viola (Vlc.), and Double Bass (DB.).

- Measure 26: Flutes 1-3 have whole rests. Oboe has a melodic line marked *rit. freely* and *very rest.*. Clarinet in A has a melodic line with triplets. Violin and Viola have melodic lines. Double Bass has a whole rest.
- Measure 27: Flutes 1-3 have whole rests. Oboe has a whole rest. Clarinet in A continues with triplets. Violin and Viola continue. Double Bass continues.



27

Meno mosso

3 1.72 ca.  
4

FL. 1  
2  
3

Ob.  
CA.  
Bsn.

Hr. 1

Vib.

Vl.  
Va.  
Vlc. 1  
Vlc. 2  
Vlc. 3/4  
DB. 1/2  
DB. 4/6

mf, f, pp, no decresc., Tutti, Isol., L.V.

to Piccolo

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FL.

Ob.

C.A.

CL.1

2

C.Bsn.

Hn. 1/2

3/4

Trp.1

2

B.Trb.

Perc.

Castanets

Vl.

Vla.

Vlc.

DB.

*mp*

*con sord*

*mf*

*sempre mf*

*rit. sim. freely*

*mf*

*mf*

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FL.

Ob.1  
2

CA.

Cl.1  
2

C.Bsn.

Hn. 1/2  
3/4

Trp.1  
Trp.2  
Trp.3

Perc.

VL.  
Vla.  
Vlc.  
D.B.

*mp*

*92 ca*

*mp sim freely changing notes*

*mp*

*Bongo: hard stick*  
*f*

FL.1

2 *mp* *f* 120 *es.* *esp. freely changing notes*

Ob.1

2

C.A.

Cl.1

2

Bsn1

2 *f* 108 *esp. more freely*

C.Bsn

2 *f* 96 *es.*

Hns. 1/2

3/4 *mf*

Trp.1

2

3 *mf* *con sord.* 104 *esp. freely changing notes*

Trb.3

3

Perc.

Bongo - hard

VI.

Vla.

Vlc.

D.B.

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Picc. *f* *f* *ff*

FL. 1 *until* *ff*

2 *until* *ff*

Ob. 1 *until* *ff*

2 *until* *ff*

CA. *until*

CL. 1 *until* *ff*

2 *until* *ff*

Bsn. 1 *until* *ff*

2 *until* *ff*

C.Bsn. *ff*

Hn. 1/2 *mf* *ff*

3/4 *mf* *ff*

Trp. 1 *until* *ff*

2 *until* *ff*

3 *until* *ff*

Trb. 1/2 *ff*

3 *ff*

Perc. *f* *Med* *Largo f*

Tam-Tam *hard*

castanets *f*

Cymbals *mp* *mf* *f*

Vl. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vlc. *f*

DB. *f*

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36  $\frac{3}{2}$

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

Fl. 2  $\frac{1}{2}$

Ob. 1

2

CA. *possible*

Cl. 1

2

Bsn. 1

2

C.Ban.

Hn.  $\frac{1}{2}$

$\frac{3}{4}$

Trp. 1

2

3

Trb. 1

2

3

Perc.

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