

Commissioned by Inventi Ensemble, premiered in 2020.

ABOUT THE ASHLAD

For Chamber Ensemble

Melody Eötvös

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Programme Notes

About the Ash Lad is inspired by a Dano-Norwegian folktale collection by Peter Christen Asbjørnsen and Jørgen Moe that was published in 1859. It is said that Henrik Ibsen, author of the original Peer Gynt drama, was inspired by this collection of folk tales of which the story “About Ash Lad , Who Stole the Troll’s Silver Ducks, Coverlet, and Golden Harp” (some other titles it is known by include “Boots and the Troll”), is a part of. In this piece, the unfolding of the story in the form of a suite is also inspired by the famous Grieg setting of Peer Gynt, as we follow the hero along his journey, through perils and triumphs.

There are a total of nine small movements, all connected by a dance-like ‘Passage’ theme, that parallel the Ash Lad’s story as he ‘borrows’ three items from a Troll in order to win the local princesses hand in marriage and a decent half of the kingdom on top of that.

It was an absolute joy to compose this work for the thoroughly amazing Inventi Ensemble, and I thank them for the opportunity to transport myself creatively into a world of fantasy and imagine my own sounds within this old Dano-Norwegian realm.

- Melody Eötvös (2020)

About the Ash Lad

I - Passage

♩ = 200 *A Dance to Walk to*

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A

Flute

Oboe

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

col legno

pizz

arco quasi sul pont.

ff

p

mf

p

col legno

p

3 3

B

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

arco ord.

p

12

3

3

3

arco ord.

p

17 **C**

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf*

22 **D**

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *arco ord.* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p*

28 **E**

Fl. *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f*

Vln. *3* *f* *quasi sul pont.* *mp*

Vla. *3* *f* *sul pont.* *arco ord.* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mp*

73

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pizz

ff

ff

ff

ff

IV - Passage

$\text{♩} = 200$ Forward, with Clarity and a Light Foot

K

78

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

ppp

arco

p

pizz

ff

arco

p

ff

pp

ppp

mp

82

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp

mf

mp

ppp

arco

mp

V - Coverlet

N

♩ = 200 *With Harlequin Abandon rit.*

98

Fl. *p* *pp* *mp*

Ob. *p* *pp* *mp*

Vln. *pp* *sul pont.*

Vla. *p* *f* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

104

♩ = 170 *accel.*

Fl. *mp*³

Ob. *mp*³

Vln. *ppp* *pp*

Vla. *ord.* *p*

Vc. *p*

109

♩ = 260

Vln. *mf* *pp* *ppp* *p*

Vla. *f* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp*

144 S

Fl. *mp* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *f*

Ob. *f* *p* *f* *mp* *f*

Vln. *f* *mp* *f* *p* *arco* *f* *mp* *f*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *f* *f* *mp* *f*

150

Fl. *f* *mf* *3* *f* *3* *mp*

Ob. *f*

Vln. *f* *mp* *sul pont.* *fp* *pp*

VI - Passage

T ♩ = 200 *Uncertainly Certain*

155

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Vln. *pizz* *mf* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *mp* *with grit* *mf*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *(pizz)* *f*

200

Z

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf* *pp*

ppp

ppp

ppp

VII - Golden Harp

AA ♩ = 80 *Soft, but Intensely*

206

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mf* *pp* *p* *f*

p *mp* *p*

sul pont. *ppp* *mp* *p*

BB

212

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

f *p* *mf*

mf *p*

218

Fl.

Vla.

Vc.

f *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *ppp*

ff *p* *ppp*

f *p* *ppp*

IX - Passage

♩ = 184 *To Home, Confidently.*

251 *"t" "t" "t" sim.*

Fl. *f*

Vln. *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

257 *ord.*

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf* *3*

Vc. *mf*

263 *accel.*

Fl. *3*

Ob. *3*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

282

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

f

3

3

286

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf

f

f

mf

mf

3

3

3

3

bow pressure

bow pressure

II

290

Fl.

Ob.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

col legno

f

ppp

ppp

ord.

ord.

ff

p

mf

ppp