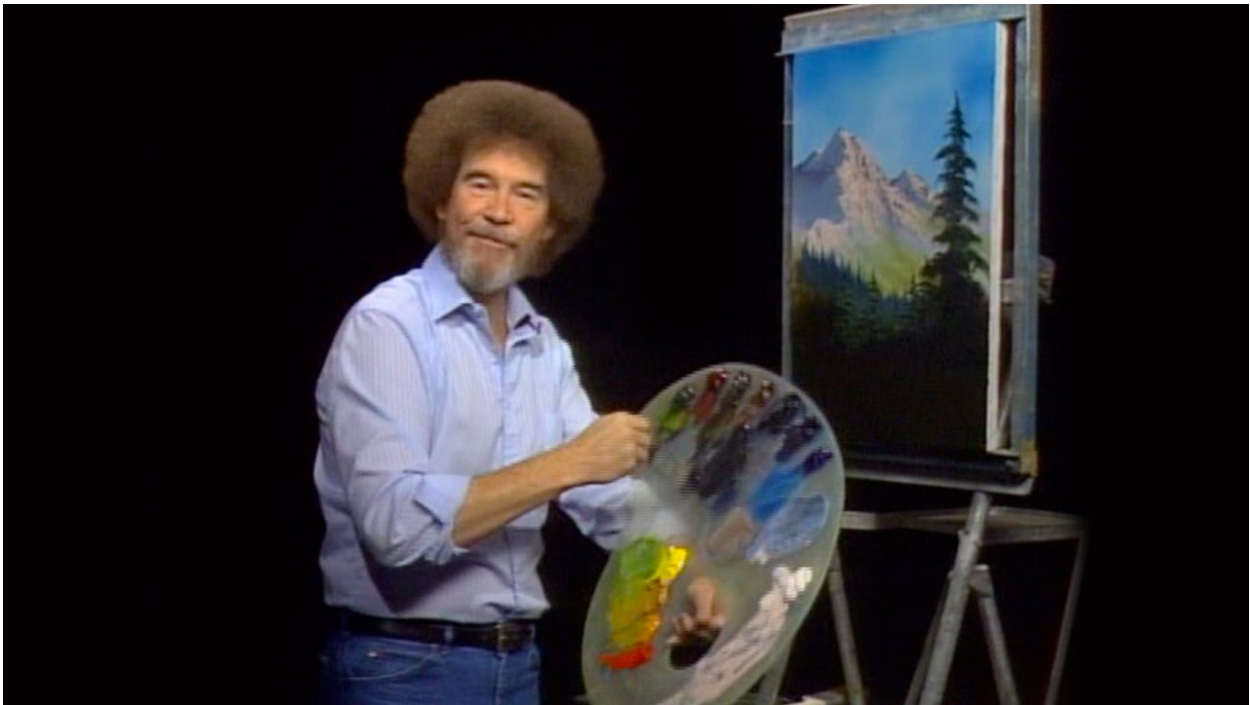


HAPPY LITTLE TREES



ERIC SHANFIELD

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

for Bob Ross

Eric Shanfield | ENS.2000.1 | 8'

Flute

Oboe

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet in Bb (straight and plunger mutes)

Bass Trombone or Tenor Trombone with F-attachment (plunger mute)

Violin

Viola

Cello

Bass

Transposed Score.

Between 1998 and 2000 I composed a series of works for chamber orchestra intended for an album, which though recorded was never released—probably for the best! Of these pieces, by far the most successful was *Happy Little Trees*, a tribute to famed television painter Bob Ross, whose paintings may not have been very good but whose calm demeanor and hypnotic voice have long provided me an island of calm in this insane world.

By means of various permutational processes *Happy Little Trees* deconstructs and then reconstructs a simple figure comprising a rising scale and related triads, moving from consonance to dissonance and back again. As the material fragments, so too does it destabilize, various orchestrational effects such as glissandos and multiphonics gradually coming to dominate the musical texture.

I have always thought of this piece as mirroring Ross's painting technique: vague blobs of color slowly resolving into a banal but beautiful scene, the image revealing itself for the first and only time at the end as the late painter ascends upwards in a blaze of cad yellow and alizarin crimson, his hair reaching heaven first.

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

FOR BOB ROSS

Eric Shanfield

The score is for a 4/4 piece in G major, marked with a tempo of quarter note = 54. It features a woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon), a brass section (Horn in F, Trumpet in Bb, Bass Trombone), and a string section (Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-8. A box with the number '5' is placed above the first measure of the second system. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mfp* (mezzo-fortissimo). The Trumpet part includes the instruction 'con sord. (straight mute)'. The Viola part includes the instruction 'pizz.' (pizzicato).

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

9

13

Fl.

mf

Ob.

mf

B. Cl.

p

Bsn.

p

Hn.

p

Tpt.

(con sord.)

mp

B. Tbn.

con sord. (plunger) 1/2

via sord.

mp

13

con sord.

via sord.

Vln.

mp

mf

mp

Vla.

p

Vc.

arco

mp

mf

Cb.

mf

21

17

Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

B. Tbn.

mf *f*

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

f *p*

mp

senza sord.

mp *f*

21

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf

norm. → sul pont.

mp *f* *fff*

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

25 29

Fl. *p* *mf* *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tpt. (con sord.) *p* via sord. senza sord. *mp*

B. Tbn. *mp*

Vln. 25 senza sord. *mf* 29

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mf* sul pont. grind

Cb. norm. *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Happy Little Trees'. The score is arranged in three systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Bass Trombone (B. Tbn.). The second system includes Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score features various dynamics such as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Performance instructions include 'con sord.' (with mutes), 'via sord.' (mutes removed), and 'senza sord.' (without mutes). The Cb. part includes a 'sul pont. grind' instruction with a wavy line. Measure numbers 25 and 29 are indicated in boxes at the top of the first system and above the Vln. staff in the second system.

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

41

Fl. *f*

Ob. *dolce*
mf
multiphonic
norm.

B. Cl. *mf*
p

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *bouché*
f

Tpt. *p* *f*

B. Tbn. *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

41

Vln. *fp* *p* *fp* *p* *f*

Vla. *f*
sul pont.

Vc. *pizz.*
f *mp* *f* *mp*
arco sul C
norm. → sul pont. → norm. sul pont. → norm. →
f *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Cb. *pp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

49

Fl. *mp* < *mf* *mp* < *mf* > *p* *ff* flt.

Ob. *mf* *p* *mf* *p sub.*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *f*

Hn. *mp*

Tpt. *mf* *mp*

B. Tbn. con sord. (plunger) growl norm. growl + via sord. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. *mf* sul pont. grind *f sub.*

Vla. (sul pont.) *mf* *f* oscillate *< fff*

Vc. sul pont. *pp* norm. *p mp mf < f ff fff* 8va

Cb. sul pont. at the frog *f*

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

61

57

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *f*

B. Cl. *f* *pp*

Bsn. *f* *pp*

Hn. *f*

Tpt. *f*

B. Tbn. senza sord. *f* *pp*

61

Vln. *pp* norm.

Vla. *f* *pp* norm.

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f* *pp* norm.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Happy Little Trees' contains measures 57 through 61. The score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Bass Trombone (B. Tbn.). The second system includes parts for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score features dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *pp* (pianissimo). A box containing the number '61' is placed above the first measure of the second system. The Flute part begins with a measure rest in measure 57 and then plays a melodic line starting in measure 61. The Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, and Trumpet parts play sustained notes or chords. The Bass Trombone part includes the instruction 'senza sord.' (without mutes). The Violin and Viola parts play sustained notes, with the Violin part marked 'norm.' (normal). The Violoncello and Contrabass parts play sustained notes.

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

65

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

B. Cl.

Bsn. *mf* +multiphonic norm.

Hn. *p*

Tpt. *p* wide vib. *f*

B. Tbn.

Vln. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *f*

Vla.

Vc. *p* pizz.

Cb. *p* pizz.

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

73

Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl. + throat tones and multiphonics ad lib. • norm.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

B. Tbn. + throat tones and multiphonics ad lib. • norm.

73

Vln.

Vla. p f

Vc.

Cb.

81

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mf* *mp*

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt. *mf* *mf*
con sord. (plunger)
1/2 →

B. Tbn. *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains the first six staves of the score. The Flute part starts with a melodic line in treble clef, marked *mf*. The Oboe part has a similar line, marked *mf* and then *mp*. The Bass Clarinet part has a line in treble clef, marked *mf* and then *mp*. The Bassoon part is silent. The Horn part is silent until measure 5, where it enters with a line in treble clef, marked *mf*. The Trumpet part has a line in treble clef, marked *mf*, and includes the instruction 'con sord. (plunger) 1/2 →'. The Bass Trombone part is silent until measure 5, where it enters with a line in bass clef, marked *mf*.

81

Vln. *mf* *f*
sul tasto

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *mf*
arco sul tasto
pizz.

Cb. *mf*
pizz.

Detailed description: This system contains the last four staves of the score. The Violin part has a line in treble clef, marked *mf* and then *f*, with the instruction 'sul tasto'. The Viola part has a line in alto clef, marked *mp*. The Violoncello part has a line in bass clef, marked *mf*, *ff*, and *mf*, with the instruction 'arco sul tasto' and 'pizz.'. The Contrabass part has a line in bass clef, marked *mf*, with the instruction 'pizz.'.

HAPPY LITTLE TREES

89

88

Fl. *p* *mf* *mp*

Ob. *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *mf*

Hn.

Tpt. $\frac{1}{2}$ *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *pp* via sord.

con sord. (plunger)
flt. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* via sord.

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

89

Vln. sul pont. *mp* *ff*

Vla. sul pont. *ff*

Vc. arco sul pont. *mp* *ff*

Cb. sul pont. *ff*

94

Fl. *p* *fff*

Ob. *p* *fff*

B. Cl. *p* *fff*

Bsn. *p* *fff*

Hn. *p* *fff*

Tpt. senza sord. *p* *fff*

B. Tbn. senza sord. *p* *fff*

94

Vln. norm. *p* *fff*

Vla. norm. *p* *fff*

Vc. norm. *p* *fff*

Cb. norm. (ossia if no extension) *p* *fff*

Detailed description: This page contains the musical score for measures 94 through 101 of the piece 'Happy Little Trees'. The score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), and Bass Trombone (B. Tbn.). The second system includes Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Each instrument part begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and concludes with *fff* (fortissimo). The Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, and Bass Trombone parts feature a melodic line that starts on a whole note and moves stepwise through the measures. The Violin and Viola parts play a sustained chord that changes in each measure. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts play a simple harmonic accompaniment. The measure number '94' is indicated in a box at the beginning of each system. The page number '13' is located in the top right corner.