The Old House

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Abstract

The Old House is a programmatic children’s suite in four movements based on a short story of the same name by Hans Christian Andersen. The story is about a young boy who befriends a man who lives in an old house on his street. The narrative of the music focuses on the beginning of the story when the boy enters the house for the first time with each movement musically depicting something the boy sees. The piece utilizes straightforward programmatic elements in conjunction with Neo-Romantic harmonic and melodic content to appeal to younger audiences (children), while still maintaining the same level of musical development found in non-children’s music.

Keywords

Program music, children’s music, Canadian Music, composition, chamber music
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The Old House

for Clarinet, Horn, Violin, Cello, and Piano

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The Old House

Performance Time – ca. 16:15

I: The Portraits – 6:15
II: The Old Clock – 2:15
III: The Garden – 3:40
IV: The Picture Book – 4:05

The Old House is inspired by a short story of the same name by Hans Christian Andersen. The story is about a young boy who befriends an old man who lives in an old house on his street. The narrative of the piece focuses on the beginning of the story when the boy enters the house for the first time. Each movement programmatically depicts a different object or place that the boy sees during his visit to the house.

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The Portraits

“The whole hallway was hung with old portraits of knights in armour and ladies in silken gowns, and the armor seemed to rattle and the silken gowns rustle! Then there was a flight of stairs that went a long way up and a little way down...”
20
Allegro Maestoso

\( \text{mf} \)
“The pendulum of the great clock slowly swung to and fro, and the hands slowly turned, and everything in the room slowly became still older, but they didn't notice it.”
II: The Old Clock

Allegro giocoso \( \frac{\dot{\ddot{\ddot{}}}}{} = 63 \)

Clarinet in B♭

Horn in F

Violin

Cello

Piano

\( p \)
The Garden

“... the whole balcony outside, the yard, and the walls were so overgrown that it looked like a garden. There were old flowerpots with faces and donkey's ears, and flowers growing out of them just as they pleased. One of the pots was almost brimming over with carnations—that is, with the green part; shoot grew by shoot, and each seemed to say quite distinctly, "The air has blessed me, and the sun has kissed me and promised me a little flower on Sunday! A little flower on Sunday!"
III: The Garden

Delicato \( \text{\textit{d}} = 80 \)

Clarinet in B♭

Horn in F

TACET

Violin

Cellos

Piano

\[ \text{\textit{Pastorale}} \ \text{\textit{\textit{d}}} = 92 \]
attacca
“Then he took a picture book down from the shelf. There were long processions and strange coaches such as one never sees nowadays, soldiers who looked like the knave of clubs, and tradesmen with waving banners. The tailors had a banner that showed a pair of shears held by two lions; and the shoemakers had on theirs not a boot, but an eagle with two heads, for shoemakers must have everything in pairs.

What a wonderful picture book that was!”
IV: The Picture Book

Animato $J = 80$

Clarinet in B♭

Horn in F

Violin

Cello

Piano

\[ \text{\textit{arco}} \]
**Curriculum Vitae**

**Name:** Eric Swiatoschik

**Post-Secondary Education and Degrees:**
University of Western Ontario  
London, Ontario, Canada  
B. Mus. (Music Composition)  
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