

The instruments of the wind ensemble

An introduction for a young audience

Arie van Hoek

aan Angela Colbers

The bassoons

Like the oboe a bassoon is a double reed woodwind instrument (**show bassoon**).

Only, the resonator tube of the bassoon is much longer and the tube has been folded for convenience purposes. It starts with the metal mount for the mouthpiece and then it goes down through a circular hole in the wooden trunk. Then it is reversed at the lower end and goes upwards through another hole. All together the length of that channel is about 2.5 m, allowing the bassoon to play very low notes (**bassoon plays lower range**). Along the bassoon a series of holes and keys are mounted, allowing the playing of pretty fast notes (**bassoon plays some scales**). In the orchestra the low notes of the bassoons are often used to accentuate the rhythm of the music. And, because of the specific tone color, the bassoon is sometimes used for playing the parts describing grumpy old men.

The bassoon as well is part of a family of instruments but this family is not as big as the clarinets. In fact, only the contrabassoon (**show contrabassoon**) can regularly be found in symphonic repertoire. The contrabassoon sounds twice as low as the normal bassoon (**play the lower range contrabassoon**). These extreme low notes are often used in music for raising a sinister mood in music.

(Now the bassoons will play a duet and/or a trio, depending on the availability).

Andante ♩ = 76

Bassoon 1

mp

Bassoon 2

mp

Measures 1-5 of the Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 parts. Bassoon 1 plays a melodic line with slurs and accents, while Bassoon 2 provides a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Both parts begin with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

6

Measures 6-10 of the Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 parts. Bassoon 1 continues its melodic line with slurs and accents. Bassoon 2 continues its rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic remains mezzo-piano (*mp*).

11

f

>

Measures 11-15 of the Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 parts. Bassoon 1 continues its melodic line with slurs and accents. Bassoon 2 continues its rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic changes to forte (*f*) in measure 14, marked with an accent (>) in measure 15.

Adagio ♩ = 56

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Contrabassoon

pomposo

mf

f

5 *a tempo*

mp

mp

mf

9

rall.

Finale

Bassoon 1

3 min.

Arie van Hoek

Allegro maestoso, $\text{♩} = 112$

