

...and those seven dwarfs

*for 2 violins, viola and violoncello
(with optional narrator)*

-

duration: 20 min.

Ryan Jesperson
{2007}

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(with optional narrator)*

duration app. 20 minutes

Program Notes:

...and those seven dwarfs was written for and with the assistance of the Honors String Quartet, the premiere ensemble of the Hartt School Community Division. Originally written for a High School ensemble, the work was slightly revised in 2010 for professional players.

...and those seven dwarfs is a retelling of the classic “Snow White” story. Although most are familiar with the 1937 Walt Disney film *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, the tale itself is found in many forms in many cultures throughout history. Mostly it is seen as a Freudian oedipal fight between a child and her mother, with nameless dwarves simply a side-product of the story. In fact, it was the Disney film that actually named the dwarves and give them distinct personalities (Grimm’s tale often refers to them in a collective sense, or by number).

In this version, I have decided to focus on the dwarves rather than Snow White. She’ll still be in the story, but will not be the central character. I have also kept the unique personalities that were presented in the Disney film. Although much of the story remains faithful to the film version, the piece should not be looked at as an adaptation, but rather as a synthesis of all the versions I have encountered. It is a tale for children and adults, and hopefully will be enjoyed by all.

-Ryan Jesperson
Feb. 17th, 2007

Performance Notes:

Accidentals apply throughout the measure, in the octave of occurrence, in the usual tradition.

Trills should be performed in the usual tradition, using the written note and a second note one letter name above it. The second note should be altered as indicated by the accidental above the staff.

Single pizzicato notes are notated using the left-hand pizzicato marking (+). Most of these notes can be played on open strings with the left hand, but those that cannot should be performed with the right hand in the usual tradition.

Throughout the piece there are narrated segments that will be performed during pauses and/or held chords. These incidents are notated using a double-dotted fermata.



The narrated segments may be read by members of the quartet, or by a fifth performer. Which member is responsible for which segment is up to the discretion of the performers, but the narrated segments should be spread out evenly among the quartet members.

During some of the “Grumpy” episodes, the players are asked to “grumble under breath”. This should not be too loud, just some moans and groans, like a child who wants attention.

Performers should pay special attention to the character of the music at all times. Play the dopey music kind of dopey, the happy music happy, etc...

Contact Information:

Ryan Jesperson
66 Maplewood Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06119
(509) 307-6540
ryan.jesperson@gmail.com
rjesperson@umkc.edu

For more information on this piece and other compositions by Ryan Jesperson, visit www.ryanjesperson.com

Please inform Ryan about any performances of this composition.

...and those seven dwarfs

Narrator Text

Each number corresponds to a circled number in the score (not to be confused with box-enclosed measure numbers). If the double-dotted fermata is over a rest for all instruments, then the text should be performed before the music continues. For the few spots where double-dotted fermatas are placed in measures containing continuous music, the cue should be read in a natural fashion, even if the music continues before the text is concluded.

Text written by Ryan Jespersion

sources consulted: The Brother's Grimm's "Snow White", Anne Sexton's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs", and Walt Disney's film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

1. Once upon a time (as these stories sometimes go), in the seventh valley of the seventh mountain, there lived seven dwarfs.
2. The dwarves lived in a small cottage, and spent their days mining the steep mountain for gold and jewels. Each day, they would return to rest, eager for another day of work.
3. One of the dwarves sneezed often.
4. One, was always tired, which angered the one that was always grumpy.
5. The grumpy dwarf would complain and groan, but this never brought down the spirit of the happy dwarf.
6. One of the dwarfs had a face that would turn as red as a ruby when embarrassed. The other dwarfs liked to tease him and point and giggle.
7. And of course, there was one who didn't talk, and the others called him "Dopey".
8. Doc, the leader of the group, had a slight stutter, but otherwise was the most wise and learn-ed of the bunch. He was their leader.
9. Everyday, the dwarves would wake at sunrise, eat breakfast, and then climb the steep mountain to mine it for valuable jewels.
10. One day, upon returning to their home, the dwarves found that a young girl had let herself in. She said she was in trouble. Her name was... Snow White.
11. Snow White asked the dwarves to let her live with them. The dwarves discussed it, and decided to let her stay. She thanked them and kissed each on the forehead. This caused Sneezzy to break out into a fit of sneezes.

12. She told her new friends that she was running away from an evil queen. The queen was jealous of Snow White's beauty and wanted her dead. She had tried once to kill Snow White, but a huntsman had taken pity on Snow White and allowed her to escape.
13. After a long supper, the seven dwarfs took a nap (led by sleepy) while Snow White did the dishes.
14. After their nap, the seven dwarfs danced and sang for Snow White. Dopey led the group since he was the best dancer. Eventually Snow White joined in and they all had a good time.
15. One of the dwarves wanted to dance with Snow White but was too embarrassed. Now which one could that have been?
16. Of course, the evil queen had used her mirror and knew of the huntsman's deception. She started thinking of ways to kill Snow White.
17. Back at the home of the seven dwarfs (and now Snow White), all were happy. One of the dwarves, the one who was always in a good mood, gathered every one around and told a wonderful bedtime story. They all went to bed happy.
18. While they slept, the evil queen was preparing a disguise, and a poisoned apple for Snow White.
19. The next morning, after breakfast and before the dwarves had left to mine, the dwarf who was always grumpy tried to warn Snow White about the evil queen. "Be careful," he said, "she will certainly try to hurt you. Don't let anyone in the house."
20. After the dwarves had left, Snow White heard a knock at the door. It was an old woman offering to give her an apple. Being young and trusting, Snow White ignored the dwarves warning and took the apple. As she took a bite the old woman threw off her disguise. It was the evil queen, and she had poisoned Snow White.
21. Snow White fell to the floor. The dwarves returned home to find her appearing dead. They felt she was too beautiful to bury in the cold ground, and built for her a glass coffin. They placed it on top of the steep mountain and always kept vigil. One day a lost prince stumbled upon the coffin.
22. Having read of it in stories, the prince opened the coffin and kissed her on the mouth, accidentally dislodging the piece of poisoned apple. Snow White awoke, and all the dwarves jumped for joy. The prince took Snow White to his kingdom and they were married.
23. And they all lived happily ever after. The End.

Duration: 20 min.

...and those seven dwarfs

for 2 violins, viola and violoncello
(with optional narrator)
(2007)

Ryan Jespersen
{1981}

Narrator:

1. Once upon a time (as these stories sometimes go), in the seventh valley of the seventh mountain, there lived seven dwarfs.

1

5

Largo (♩ = 54)

Adagio con rubato (♩ = 64)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

6

5. The grumpy dwarf would complain and groan, but this never brought down the spirit of the happy dwarf.

27

5 (grumble under breath)

p *mf* *ff*

(grumble under breath)

(grumble under breath)

(grumble under breath)

(grumble under breath)

p *mf* *ff*

p *mf* *ff*

31

Light and Happy
"Happy"

mf

mp (sim.)

mp (sim.)

mp

6. One of the dwarfs had a face that would turn as red as a ruby when embarrassed. The other dwarfs liked to tease him and point and giggle.

36

rit. *Adagio* (♩ = 72)

6

mp *mf* *p*

mp *p* *mp*

mp *p* *mp*

mp

7. And of course, there was one who didn't talk, and the others called him "Dopey".

42 *sul tasto* *meno mosso* (♩ = 60) 7

"Bashful" *mp* *pizz.*

47 "Dopey" *Moderato* (♩ = 72) *ord.* *arco*

51 *più mosso* (♩ = 112)

8. Doc, the leader of the group, had a slight stutter, but otherwise was the most wise and learn-ed of the bunch. He was their leader.

8

56

55 "Doc"

59

68

64

Jespersion - ...and those seven dwarfs

6

69

mf p mf mp p

mf p mf mp p

mf p mf mp p

p p mf mp p

9. Everyday, the dwarves would wake at sunrise, eat breakfast, and then climb the steep mountain to mine it for valuable jewels.

78 9 Moderato (♩ = 96)

74

f mp

f mp

f mp

f mp mp

79

accel. ----- a tempo

sul pont. p p p p

sul pont. p p p p

sul pont. p p p p

p p p p

mp mf p p

mp mf p p

mp mf p p

mp mf p p

pizz. p pizz. p ord. mp ord. arco mp

10. One day, upon returning to their home, the dwarves found that a young girl had let herself in. She said she was in trouble. Her name was... Snow White.

85 *ord. arco* *mp* *accel. ----- a tempo* *f* *mf* **10** **89** *più mosso* (♩ = 168) *arco col legno* *mp*

ord. arco *mp* *f* *mf* *arco col legno* *mp*

arco *f* *mf* *arco* *mf*

f *mf* *arco col legno* *mp*

91 *ord.* *mf* *p*

ord. *mf* *p* *mf*

ord. *mf* *p*

96 **98** *pp*

p

p *mf*

mf *p*

101

mf

pizz. arco

p

This system contains measures 101 through 106. It features four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The first staff has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second staff has markings for *pizz.* and *arco*. The third staff has a dynamic marking of *p*. The music consists of various rhythmic patterns and melodic lines across the staves.

107

109

f

mp

pizz. arco

mp

mp

This system contains measures 107 through 111. It features four staves. A box labeled '109' is positioned above the first staff. The first staff has a dynamic marking of *f*. The second and third staves have dynamic markings of *mp*. The fourth staff has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The music includes complex rhythmic patterns and melodic lines.

112

This system contains measures 112 through 116. It features four staves. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and melodic lines across all staves.

117 *mf* *mp* *accel.* -----

11. Snow White asked the dwarves to let her live with them. The dwarves discussed it, and decided to let her stay. She thanked them and kissed each on the forehead. This caused Sneezzy to break out into a fit of sneezes.

123 **Allegro** (♩ = 112) 126

128

13. After a long supper, the seven dwarfs took a nap (led by sleepy) while Snow White did the dishes.

151 13 154 *a tempo*

157 *arco* *p* *più mosso* (♩ = 72) *mf*

14. After their nap, the seven dwarfs danced and sang for Snow White. Dopey led the group since he was the best dancer. Eventually Snow White joined in and they all had a good time.

164 14 166 *Moderato* (♩ = 72) *pizz.*

169

arco *mf*

mf

arco *mf*

Musical score for measures 169-171. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measures 169 and 170 contain rests for the Violin I and Viola parts. In measure 171, the Violin I and Viola parts play a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Violin II part plays a half note G4 with an accent (>) and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Cello/Double Bass part plays a steady eighth-note bass line.

172

173

f

mp

mp

Musical score for measures 172-174. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measure 172 features a dynamic marking of *f* for the Violin I part. Measures 173 and 174 feature dynamic markings of *mp* for the Violin II and Viola parts. The Violin I part plays a half note G4 with an accent (>) in measure 172, followed by a quarter note G4 with an accent (>) in measure 173, and a quarter note G4 with an accent (>) in measure 174. The Violin II and Viola parts play a steady eighth-note bass line. The Cello/Double Bass part plays a steady eighth-note bass line.

175

Musical score for measures 175-176. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. Measures 175 and 176 feature a dynamic marking of *mp* for the Violin II and Viola parts. The Violin I part plays a half note G4 with an accent (>) in measure 175, followed by a quarter note G4 with an accent (>) in measure 176. The Violin II and Viola parts play a steady eighth-note bass line. The Cello/Double Bass part plays a steady eighth-note bass line.

177

Musical score for measures 177-180. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features a complex melodic line in the upper staves and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower staves. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note pattern. The upper staves contain various melodic phrases, including slurs and accents.

179

Musical score for measures 179-182. This system continues the piece from the previous system. It features the same four-staff structure with treble and bass clefs. The melodic lines in the upper staves continue with similar phrasing, while the bass line maintains its rhythmic pattern. The notation includes slurs and accents throughout.

181

184

Musical score for measures 181-184. This system includes dynamic markings: *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte). The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat. The music features a complex melodic line in the upper staves and a rhythmic accompaniment in the lower staves. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note pattern. The upper staves contain various melodic phrases, including slurs and accents. The dynamic markings *mp* and *f* are placed in the first and third measures of the system, respectively.

185

Musical score for measures 185-186. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and slurs. The second staff is also in treble clef and contains a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The third staff is in alto clef and contains a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The bottom staff is in bass clef and contains a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

187

Musical score for measures 187-188. The system consists of four staves. The top staff continues the melodic line from the previous system. The second staff has the word "arco" written above it. The third staff has the word "arco" written above it. The bottom staff continues the rhythmic accompaniment. The music includes various slurs and ornaments.

189

Musical score for measures 189-190. The system consists of four staves. The top staff continues the melodic line. The second staff has the word "arco" written above it. The third staff has the word "arco" written above it. The bottom staff has the word "pizz." written above it. The music includes various slurs and ornaments. Dynamic markings *f*, *mp*, and *f* are present at the bottom of the system.

191 192

pp
pp
pp *mf*
pizz. *arco* *arco* *mf* *mp*

195

mf *mp*
mf *mp*
mf *f*
mf

15. One of the dwarves wanted to dance with Snow White but was too embarrassed. Now which one could that have been?

(15)

Adagio (♩ = 72) 204 *sul tasto*

201

p *p* *mp* *p*
n. *n.* *sul tasto* *sul tasto*
mf *p* *sul tasto* *sul tasto*
mp *p*

16. Of course, the evil queen had used her mirror and knew of the huntsman's deception. She started thinking of ways to kill Snow White.

206

(16) (17)

Moderato (♩ = 72) *sul pont.*

f >
(gliss down as low as possible, then fade out.
Hold fermata until vc has faded out)

17. Back at the home of the seven dwarfs (and now Snow White), all were happy. One of the dwarves, the one who was always in a good mood, gathered every one around and told a wonderful bedtime story. They all went to bed happy.

212

Moderato (♩ = 96)

ord.

mf

mp

mp

mp

216

mf *sfz*

221

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *mp*

18. While they slept, the evil queen was preparing a disguise, and a poisoned apple for Snow White.

226

(18) 228

più mosso (♩ = 128)

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

230

mf *ff* *f*

mf *ff* *f*

mf *ff* *f*

mf *ff* *f*

19. The next morning, after breakfast and before the dwarves had left to mine, the dwarf who was always grumpy tried to warn Snow White about the evil queen. "Be careful," he said, "she will certainly try to hurt you. Don't let anyone in the house."

234

meno mosso (♩ = 112)

19

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

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

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

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

240

Moderato (♩ = 102)

f *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f*

244

mf *f*

248

(grumble under breath) *poco rit.* *a tempo* 250

mf *f* *mf* *f*

20. After the dwarves had left, Snow White heard a knock at the door. It was an old woman offering to give her an apple. Being young and trusting, Snow White ignored the dwarves warning and took the apple. As she took a bite the old woman threw off her disguise. It was the evil queen, and she had poisoned Snow White.

252

Allegro (♩ = 112) 20

ff *f* *n.*

256

Moderato (♩ = 72)

sul pont.

più mosso (♩ = 128)

Musical score for measures 256-265. It consists of four staves (treble, alto, tenor, and bass clefs). The first section (measures 256-257) is marked *Moderato* (♩ = 72) and *sul pont.* with dynamics *mf* and *f*. The second section (measures 258-265) is marked *più mosso* (♩ = 128) with dynamics *mp* and *f*. The score includes various rhythmic patterns and articulation marks.

Musical score for measures 266-275. It consists of four staves. The first section (measures 266-267) is marked *mf*. The second section (measures 268-275) is marked *ff*. The score includes various rhythmic patterns and articulation marks, including accents and slurs.

265

Moderato (♩ = 72)

Musical score for measures 276-285. It consists of four staves. The first section (measures 276-285) is marked *Moderato* (♩ = 72). The score includes various rhythmic patterns and articulation marks, including accents and slurs.

21. Snow White fell to the floor. The dwarves returned home to find her appearing dead. They felt she was too beautiful to bury in the cold ground, and built for her a glass coffin. They placed it on top of the steep mountain and always kept vigil. One day a lost prince stumbled upon the coffin.

270 21 271 Adagio (♩ = 68)

270 21 271 Adagio (♩ = 68)

278 279

278 279

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