

## **At the Movies With Danny Elfman**

Featuring The Batman Theme, Dark Shadows, The River Cruise and Moon Dance



## **PROGRAM NOTE**

Danny Elfman's film scores are unique, bold, and unmistakable. For years, film enthusiasts of all ages have been transported to the realms of the mysterious, the wondrous, and the supernatural with the familiar strains of his timeless melodies. *At the Movies With Danny Elfman* is not so much a medley of tunes as it is a portrait of his styles and "Elfman-esque" moods. Selections from *Dark Shadows, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and *Corpse Bride* are surrounded by one of Elfman's most popular melodies, the iconic "Batman Theme" from the 1989 *Batman* film.



## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Measures 1 through 10 should be very free and pensive, establishing the dark and mysterious feel desired. Lean heavily on the rit. in the  $\frac{5}{4}$  at measure 10! The *sffz* at measure 11 should be as aggree as possible.

The "Batman Theme" at measure 14 should be as crisp and precise as possible. Let the concert snare be the dominant driving pulse here. All of the articulations, especially in the low brass accompaniment, should be very detached. Bring out the trumpets in measure 19 and the flutes and clarinets in measure 28. Encourage your ensemble to drive this section forward. Don't let it drag!

The sudden tempo change to 60 bpm at measure 34 should be very dramatic, with emphasis given the suspended cymbal.

Measures 36 through 43 can have an almost unmetered feel. The flute solo should be very carefree, dark, and "breathy." The 32nd notes can be alternatively interpreted as a very slow fall, if so desired.

In measure 44, the staccato 8th notes in the tom-toms, tuba, baritone sax, bass clarinet, and bassoon should be aggressive and biting! Horns and alto saxes can really soar on their entrance in measure 46!

Measure 54 should be as bold and intense as possible. Let your low brass bite off as much as they can chew here! Encourage your tom-tom player to be very aggressive and animated!

At the  $\frac{3}{4}$  in measure 64, the tom-toms should be less appressive, but very dark and brooding. All woodwind articulations in measures 64 through 90 should be very subtle, so as to create a very subdued and tense mood. Let your trombone soloist be a little abrasive and free with the glissandi.

Measure 93 is a powerful and passionate statement of "Moon Dance" from *Corpse Bride*. Let the brass section shine here! Allow your entire ensemble to be as bold and emotional as possible. This statement should almost have a "yearning" feel.

Measure 98 should be very tranquil and free Again, the *sffz* at measure 100 should be intense and the subsequent crescendo should be drastic!

Measure 103 is a powerful and victor ous restatement of the "Batman Theme." No holds barred here throughout the entire ensemble, as this section serves as the "closing credits" of the piece! Be sure the trumpet melody doesn't get lost within the ensemble. Let your woodwinds soar here!

At measure 107, all brass attacks should be "mean" and fierce! Give your timpani player freedom to be animated and aggressive to the end of the piece.

hope that you and your ensemble have as much fun rehearsing and performing this piece as I did putting it together. Encourage them to visualize the moods created throughout the piece; they might want to create their own storyline as you put it together! You have my best wishes for an exciting and memorable performance!

astin Allinar

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