

The Dreaded Devious Diabolical Dotted Dragon

By Nathan Farrell (ASCAP)

- INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
- 10 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 10 Bb Clarinet
- 2 B_b Bass Clarinet
- 6 El Alto Saxophone
- 4 B_b Tenor Saxophone
- 2 El Baritone Saxophone
- 8 B♭Trumpet
- 4 F Horn
- 6 Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon

- 2 Baritone Treble Clef (World Part Trombone in B) Treble Clef)
- 4 Tuba
- 2 Xylophone
- 3 Percussion 1 (Snare Drum/Mark Tree (Optional), Bass Drum)
- 5 Percussion 2 (Gong/Vibraslap/Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal/Triangle)
- 2 Optional Timpani (Tune: A, D)

WORLD PARTS

Available for download from www.alfred.com/worldparts

Horn in E

Trombone/Baritone in Bb Bass Clef

Tuba in Eb Bass Clef

Tuba in El Treble Clef

Tuba in B♭ Bass Clef

Tuba in By Treble Clef

PROGRAM NOTES

Join the band on a quest to find and conquer the dreaded dragon, which in our case is a dotted quarter note. Starting with a bass drum solo, each section of the band gradually joins the fray. The music builds from a scary and mysterious march to a triumphant climax as the percussion echoes the band on powerful unison dotted quarter notes. But a knight's work is never done, and we return to the opening idea as we quest for the next monster. Maybe dotted eighth notes? Beware!

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Nothing seems to reveal performers lack of subdivision like a dotted quarter note. The goal of this piece is to keep students' interest with the overly dramatic colors and lines while the director is given many opportunities to teach both the dotted quarter note/eighth note (\int , \int) and the slightly less common eighth note/dotted quarter note (\int , \int ,) syncopation.

Keep the forte dynamic level controlled so the fortissimo moments stand out. Work to balance the half-step dissonance (flute/oboe, trumpet/alto saxophone, and xylophone) in measure 12, and make the notes very short and accented to make it clear that the dissonance is on purpose and not a mistake. Encourage students to stagger breathe so there are not phrase breaks after every half note (e.g. measure 16, 18, 24, 26, etc.).

Percussion rarely gets to unleash, but encourage them to do so in measure 38, especially the gong. If a large gong is unavailable, using different pitched cymbals (high for the suspended cymbal and low for the gong) could be an adequate substitute. If you have extra percussion players, feel free to double the mallet part with bells, vibes, or marimba. Be creative and use different color combinations as you see fit, or have them all play all the time.





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