

Zombie Dreams

ROLAND BARRETT (ASCAP)

Conductor

- 8 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 2 Bassoon
- 4 1st B Clarinet
- 4 2nd Bb Clarinet
- 2 B_b Bass Clarinet
- 5 E Alto Saxophone
- 2 B Tenor Saxophone
- 2 E Baritone Saxophone
- 4 1st B_b Trumpet
- 4 2nd Bb Trumpet
- 4 F Horn
- 4 Trombone

INSTRUMENTATION

- 2 Baritone
- 2 Baritone Treble Clef
- 4 Tuba
- 3 Mallet Percussion (Bells/Xylophone, Vibraphone, Chimes)
- 1 Timpani (Initial Tune: G, Ab, C, Eb)

bourine

- 4 Percussion 1
 (Rainstick and/or Shakers and/or Ocean
 Drums/Snare Drum, Tkiangle, Bass Drum)
- 4 Percussion 2
 (Heavy Chain/Suspended Cymbal/
 Woodblock/Cowbell or Brake Drum/
 Vibraslap, Cowbell or Brake Drum/

aker/Wind Chimes/Gong)

WORLD PART

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Horn in Electrombone in Blass Clef
Trombone in Blass Clef
Baritone in Blass Clef
Tuba in Electrope Clef
Tuba in Electrope Clef
Tuba in Blass Clef
Tuba in Blass Clef
Tuba in Blass Clef
Tuba in Blass Clef

PROGRAM NOTES

Various sources define "zombie" as "a corpse which has been reanimated by various supernatural means, and whose mute body continues to move despite a lack of normal biological function," and "a person held to resemble the so-called walking dead."

have always been fascinated by zombies. Half living but half dead, one foot in the real world but one foot in the nether world, zombies are just....well, awkward. This piece, *Zombie Dreams*, attempts to capture and convey the strange juxtaposition of normal and abnormal that typifies a zombie's existence. It consists of several smaller subsections, bearing the following subtitles: "Zombie Wakes," "Zombie Walks," "Zombie Waltzes," "Zombie Crush," and "Zombie Flees." While the subtitles do suggest an underlying backstory, the composer encourages each ensemble to develop its own more detailed ideas supporting and illustrating the typical "day in the life of a zombie."



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

In the opening measures, the trumpets are asked to contribute to the desired spooky and atmospheric effect by rustling plastic grocery bags. Using ordinary plastic bags (available at grocery stories, convenience stores, etc.), players should lean forward and gently shake the bags close to the floor in front of their chairs for a better sound and to keep the bags slightly hidden from the audience's view.

Additionally, measures 1 through 10 include a "heavy chain" in the Percussion 2 part. The instructions to the player are as follows:

Drop a heavy chain onto a wooden surface. Then, drag the chain across the surface as you gradually lift it completely up and off of the surface. This process should be repeated ad lib several times, stopping just before the downbeat of measure 10.

The actual notation in measure 1 is only a suggestion—the drops and drags should be somewhat random in nature, and not performed in strict time. Players and ensembles are encouraged to experiment, in order to achieve the best and creepiest effect possible.

In measures 2–11, the ensemble should strive for good breath support and control in order to help achieve a gradual but ominous build from *piano* to *fortissimo*. The sustained percussion roll in measure 12 must be very powerful, and the feel at measure 13 should be very driving and menacing.

In measures 25–32, the ensemble should work to create a pronounced stylistic and dynamic change, in comparison to the previous measures.

In measures 33 and 35, the bassoon, bass clarinet, and bari sax should carefully observe the one-measure crescendo from *pianissimo* to *mezzo piano*. Additionally, the percussion in measures 37 and 38 should crescendo solidly and confidently from *piano* to *forte* in order to prepare the winds' *forte* entrance in measure 39.

At measure 50 ("Zombie Waltzes"), the desired effect is to create a type of waltz grotesque, portraying the zombies' decidedly awkward attempts at dancing. The section begins very tentatively, then gradually gains momentum. Getting louder, bolder, and faster as it progresses, the dancing should reach a raucous, nearly out-of-control peak of enthusiasm in measures 86–91 before receding.

The passage beginning in measure 103 should be played tenderly, sweetly, and with great longing. In measures 108 and 109, the director may specify flute solo or oboe solo, or one instrument in measure 108 and the other instrument in measure 109.

At measure 112, the ensemble should begin very softly, then progressively build to *forte* on beat 3 of measure 117. The percussion instruments should be thunderous in measure 118.

Finally, at measure 119, the ensemble should play with the same style and intensity as in measure 13, carefully observing the dramatic crescendo from *subito piano* to *fortissimo* in measures 126 and 127.

Roland Barrett



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