

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Overture: Paul Bunyan

Orchestrated by
COLIN MATTHEWS

Faber Music Limited

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The first performance of this Overture
was given by the European Community Youth Orchestra
conducted by James Judd at the Royal Albert Hall
on 6th August 1978

ORCHESTRA

2 Flutes (2 = Piccolo)
Oboe
2 Clarinets in B flat
Bass Clarinet in B flat
Bassoon

2 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
2 Trombones
Bass Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (2 or 3 players)
Bass Drum, Side Drum
Cymbals, Tambourine
Triangle, Tenor Drum ad lib

Harp ad lib*
Piano ad lib*

Violins 1
Violins 2
Violas
Cellos
Doublebasses

*Although both the harp and piano parts may be omitted, it is highly desirable that at least one of them should be used. The harp is, where possible, cued into the piano part for use in the event of a performance with piano but without a harp.

Orchestral parts are available on hire from the publishers

Britten's operetta *Paul Bunyan* Op. 17 was written in New York in 1940 and first performed there in 1941. Britten subsequently withdrew the work, and it was not until 1974 that he began to revise it for the first European performance, which took place in 1975. A new, very brief introduction was then substituted for the original overture, which, because of its length, had not been performed in 1941. Whether or not Britten actually orchestrated the overture is not clear; all that survives is the composition sketch, laid out for two pianos.

The overture was scored in 1977 by Colin Matthews, who worked closely with Britten in his last years. The orchestra is the same size as that used for the opera, and, since the overture begins with the opening music from Act II, the first fifteen bars are in Britten's own orchestration.

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BENJAMIN BRITTEN
(1913-1976)

Moderato poco maestoso (♩ = ca.84)

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes the following instruments and parts:

- Piccolo (= Flute 2)
- Flute I
- Oboe
- Clarinets in Bb 1 & 2
- Bass Clarinet in Bb
- Bassoon
- Horns in F 1 & 2
- Trumpets in C 1 & 2
- Trombones 1 & 2
- Tuba
- Timpani
- Percussion (Cymbals *not.*)
- Harp
- Piano

The second system includes the following instruments and parts:

- Violins I
- Violins 2
- Violas
- Cellos
- Doublebasses

The score is written in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations, including dynamics (e.g., *sf*, *f*, *p*), articulation (e.g., accents, slurs), and performance instructions (e.g., *not.* for cymbals). The tempo is marked as **Moderato poco maestoso** with a metronome marking of (♩ = ca.84).

6

Picc.

Fl. I

Ob.

Clts. in Bb
1 & 2

B. Cl.
in Bb

Bsn.

1
Hns. in F

2

1
Tpts. in C

2

1
Tbns.

2

Tuba

Timp.

Cymb.

Harp

Piano

Vln. I

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Db.

11

1

Picc.

Fl. I

Ob.

Cts. in B $\flat$
1 & 2

B. Cl.
in B $\flat$

Bsn.

1
Hns. in F

2

1
Tpts. in C

2

1
Tbns.

2

Tuba

Timp.

Cymb.

S.D.

Harp

Piano

1

Vln. I

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Db.