

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Two Insect Pieces

The Grasshopper . The Wasp

for oboe and piano

(1935)

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Duration:
The Grasshopper: approx. 3 minutes
The Wasp: approx. 2 minutes

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These pieces were written by Britten in the spring of 1935 for the oboist Sylvia Spencer, who had played in early performances of his *Phantasy Quartet*, Op. 2.

Britten and Sylvia Spencer played through *The Grasshopper* and *The Wasp* in April 1935 but the first public performance did not take place until 7 March 1979, when they were performed by Janet Craxton and Margot Wright as part of a memorial concert for Sylvia Spencer at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester.

COLIN MATTHEWS

For Sylvia Spencer

TWO INSECT PIECES (1935)

The Grasshopper

Benjamin Britten
(1913-76)

Allegretto leggiero (♩. = about 60)

OBOE

PIANO

p *sempre* *cresc.* *mf* *p sub.*

p *sempre* *cresc.* *mf* *p sub.*

cresc. *mf* *p sub.* *cresc.*

cresc. *mf* *p sub.* *cresc.*

f *p*

f *p*

cresc. *f* *dim.*