

Tomb of the Unknown

Composer

*(Le Tombeau du
compositeur inconnu)*

for Orchestra



Bill Robinson

Tomb of the Unknown Composer

(*Le Tombeau du Compositeur Inconnu*)

for Orchestra

Original string trio composed September 11—November 15, 2010

Revised and orchestrated Dec. 17, 2024—February 22, 2025

Duration: about 19 minutes

Originally composed as a trio for violin, viola, and cello, this work was intended as a sketch for the first three movements of a symphony, which would have an extra movement as a finale. Soon after finishing the trio, I came down with a lingering case of bronchitis, which eventually morphed into bronchiectasis, and I abandoned the larger scale version. In December 2024, after two title changes, I finally set about revising and then orchestrating the trio.

This piece harks back to Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin* mostly to take advantage of the cool title, and to point out the presumption of composers like myself who labor in almost total obscurity. Ravel took great liberties with the form, and I do the same. I don't include any of Ravel's music explicitly in this piece, as taking the title is sufficient larceny. My debt to Ravel is in the fabric of most of my music.

The second movement's title refers to the famous bicycle ride of Dr. Albert Hofmann, respected Swiss chemist, who took the world's first acid trip in 1943. He died at age 102 in 2008. The music approximates a toccata.

The third movement, despite its title (*Pavane pour un Enfant Terrible*) taken from Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte*, is one of the most serious and dark movements I've written.

Performance notes

Tomb of the Unknown Composer is scored for two flutes (second flute doubles piccolo), two oboes, clarinets, and bassoons, four horns, two trumpets, two trombones, bass trombone, tuba, timpani, and strings. The third movement does not include the second oboe, trumpets, trombones, and bass trombone.

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Bill Robinson

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www.billrobinsonmusic.com

Tomb of the Unknown Composer

I. Prélude

[7']

Bill Robinson

An Excellent Tempo (♩.=56)

[illegible]

An Excellent Tempo (♩.= 56)

Tomb Mov. 1

2

8

1 Fl.

2 Picc

Ob. 1

I Vln.

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

DB

mp

mp

14

18

1 Fl.

2 Picc

Ob. 1

1 Cl.

2 Cl.

Bn. 1

14

Hn. 1

I Vln.

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

DB

mp

f

mp

f

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

f

ff

18

20

1 Cl. 2 Hn. 2 Vln. I II Vla. Vc. DB

ff *f* *mf* *mp*

div.

f *mf* *mp*

f *mf* *mp*

f *mf* *mp*

f *mf* *mp*

27

1 Ob. 2 Bn. 1 Hn. 2 Vln. I Vla. Vc. DB

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

unis.

Tomb Mov. 1

4

33

34

Fl. 1

1

Ob. 2

2

Cl. 1

1

Hn. 2

4

I

II

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

DB

p

mp

p

cresc.

mf cresc.

33

34

48

49

1

Fl.

(Fl. 2)

2

Picc

1

Ob.

2

2

Hn. 3

4

1

Tpt.

2

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

48

Vc.

3

49

51 $\text{b}\Omega$

1 *ff*
Fl. (Fl. 2)

2 *ff*
Picc

1
Ob.

2

1 *ff*
Cl.

2

1 *ff*
Bn.

2 *ff*

51

1 *ff*

2

3

4

1 *ff*

2 *ff*

51

I

II

Vla.

51

Vc.

53

1

Ob.

2

Cl. 1

53

1

Hn. 2

3

Tpt. 1

2

Tbn. 1

Tuba

53

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

Tomb Mov. 1

8

56

Ob. 1

1

Cl.

2

Bn. 1

56

1

2

Hn.

3

4

1

2

Tbn.

Tuba

56

I

II

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

56

DB

ff

Tomb Mov. 1

10

66

Fl. (Fl. 2) *p* *mp*

Picc *p* *mp*

Ob. 1 *p*

Ob. 2 *p* *mp*

Cl. 1 *p* *mp*

Timp. 66

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *p* *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. 66

DB 66



73 74

Fl. 1

Cl. 1 *mp*

Vln. I 73

Vln. II 73

Vla. 73

Vc. *mp*

DB 73 arco *mp* 74

This image displays a page of a musical score, specifically measures 85 through 89. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Oboe 1 (Ob. 1), Oboe 2 (Ob. 2), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Bassoon 1 (Bn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bn. 2), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (DB). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, slurs, and articulation marks. The page number 85 is visible in the top left corner, and the measure number 89 is indicated in a box at the bottom right.

[illegible]

95

Ob. 1

mp₊

1

Bn.

mf

mp

2

mp

95

1

Hn.

mp₊

mf

2

mf

95

I

Vln.

mf

dim. p. a p.

II

mp₊

mf

p

Vla.

mf

dim. p. a p.

Vc.

mf

dim. (p)

95

DB

mf

dim. (p)

Tomb Mov. 1

14

104

102

Fl. 1 *pp* (Picc.) *ff*

Picc. 2 *pp*

Ob. 1 *ff*

Ob. 2 *ff*

Bn. 1 *pp* *ff*

Bn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 1 102 *pp*

Hn. 2 *p* *pp*

Hn. 3 *ff* 6

Hn. 4 *ff*

Tpt. 1 *ff* Mute

Tpt. 2 *ff* Mute

Vln. I 102 *pp* *ff*

Vln. II *pp* *ff* 6

Vla. *pp* *ff*

Vc. *pp* *ff*

DB 102 *pp* *ff*

104

[illegible]

108

Fl. (Fl. 2)

Picc

Ob.

Cl.

Bn. 2

ff

108

Hn. 2

3

Tpt.

Tbn. 2

Tuba

ff

108

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

108

DB

ff

III

1

Fl.

2

Picc

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

III

Hn. 1

1

Tbn.

2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

III

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

III

DB

114

115

Fl. 1

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

114

115

120

Ob. 1

mp *p*

Bn. 1

p

Bn. 2

p

Hn. 2

p

Hn. 3

mp *p*

Hn. 4

p

Timp.

p

Vln. I

mp *p*

Vln. II

mp *p*

Vla.

mp *p*

Vc.

p

DB

p



126

128

Bn. 1

Bn. 2

Hn. 2

Hn. 4

Timp.

126

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

(solo)
p *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *ff*

DB

126

128

Tomb Mov. 1

20

138

This page of the musical score contains measures 132 through 138. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Fl. 1:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *p* and *pp*, with a *(solo)* instruction in measure 138.
- Ob. 1:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *p* and *pp*.
- Cl. 1:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *f* and *mf*.
- Bn. 1:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *mf* and *mp*.
- Hn. 1 & 3:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *f* and *p*.
- Vln. I & II:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *p* and *pp*.
- Vla.:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *p* and *pp*.
- Vc.:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *p* and *pp*. A *(tutti)* instruction is present in measure 135.
- DB:** Measures 132-135 are marked *ff*. Measures 136-138 are marked *p*.

The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings. The page number 138 is visible in the bottom right corner.

138

Ob. 1

Cl. 1

Bn. 1

Hn. 1

Vln. I

Vc.

140

p

p

p

p

p

p

141

142

143

144

2/4

6/8

Tomb Mov. 1

21

[illegible]

154

Fl. 1

Ob. 1

2

Hn.

3

Tuba

154

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

154

DB

159 165

Fl. 1

Ob. 1

Cl. 1

Hn. 3

Tbn. 1

Tuba

Timp.

I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

ff

mf

ff

dim.

ff

dim.

ff

dim.

ff

dim.

ff

dim.

165

166

Hn. 4

Tuba

166

Timp.

166

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

166

DB

[illegible]

Toccata velocopedia (♩ = 160 mcg)

1 Flute

2 (dbl. Picc)

1 Oboe

2

1 Clarinet in B $\flat$

2

1 Bassoon

2

1 Horn in F

2

3

4

1 Trumpet in B $\flat$

2

1 Trombone

2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

I Violin

II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Toccata velocopedia (♩ = 160 mcg)

11

1 Fl. *ff* (Picc.)

2 Picc *ff*

1 Ob.

2 Ob.

1 Cl.

2 Cl. *ff*

1 Bn.

2 Bn.

Hn. 3

Tpt. 1

Tbn. 1

B. Tbn.

Tuba

11

Timp.

11

I Vln.

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

11

DB

Tomb Mov. 2

26

17

Fl. 1

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

2

Hn.

3

Tpt. 1

Tbn. 1

B. Tbn.

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

17

DB

ff

Tomb Mov. 2

27

23

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Picc.

Ob. 1

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Tpt. 1

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

23

Tomb Mov. 2

28

44

41

Ob. 1

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

ff

41

1

2

Hn.

3

4

ff

Tpt. 1

ff

Tuba

ff

41

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

41

DB

44

Tomb Mov. 2

30 50

Fl. 1

Ob. 1

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

50

1

Hn. 2

4

Tpt. 1

1

Tbn.

2

Tuba

50

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

50

DB

58

1 Fl. *mp* (Fl. 2)

2 Picc *mp*

1 Ob. *mp*

2

1 Cl. *mp*

2 *mp*

Hn. 3 *ff* *mp*

58 I Vln. *mp*

II Vln. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

58 Vc. *mp*

Poco meno mosso (♩ = 140 mcg) *mp*

66

1 Fl. *mp*

2 Picc (Picc.) *mp*

Ob. 2

Cl. 2

Bn. 2 *mp*

2 Hn. 3 *mp*

4

66 I Vln. *mp*

II Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *mp*

66 DB *mp*

Tomb Mov. 2

32

73

77

Ob. 1

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

73

77

Hn. 3

4

73

77

I

II

Vla.

Vc.

73

DB

82

accel. ----- **Toccata velocopedia** (♩ = 160 mcg)

Cl. 1

1

Bn.

2

82

Hn. 1

Tpt. 1

82

Timp.

mp cresc. ----- *f* ----- *ff*

82

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

82

DB

cresc. ----- *f* ----- *ff*

accel. ----- **Toccata velocopedia** (♩ = 160 mcg)

Tomb Mov. 2

3491

96 (Fl. 2)

Fl. 2
Picc

Cl. 1

Bn. 1

91

ff

1

Hn. 2

3

ff

Tpt. 1

Tbn. 1

ff

B. Tbn.

91

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

91

DB

96

97

(Fl. 2)

Fl.

2

Picc

1

Ob.

2

p

Cl. 1

p

Bn. 1

p

97

1

Hn.

3

p

97

DB

p

108

1

Fl.

2

Picc

1

Ob.

2

1

Cl.

2

Bn. 1

108

1

Hn. 2

4

Tpt. 1

108

I

II

Vln.

Vc.

DB

108

113 (Picc.)

119

Fl. 2
Picc.

1

Ob.

2

Cl. 1

Bn. 1

113

1

2

3

4

Hn.

Tpt. 1

1

2

Tbn.

113

div.

unis.

I

II

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

DB

Tomb Mov. 2

122

Fl. 1 *ff* *pp* (Picc.) *p*

Picc 2 *pp*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1 *p*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

122

Timp. *p*

122

Vln. I *pp* *p*

Vln. II *pp* *p*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *p*

122

DB *ff* *pp* *p*

Tomb Mov. 2

39



139

Ob. 1

Bn. 1

Hn. 1

Hn. 3

Tpt. 1

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

139

mp *mf* *f* *ff*

139

Tomb Mov. 2

40

This musical score page displays the 145th measure of a symphony, featuring a variety of instruments. The woodwind section includes Oboes (Ob.), Clarinets (Cl.), Bassoons (Bn.), Horns (Hn.), and Trumpets (Tpt.). The brass section consists of Trombones (Tbn.) and a Bass Trombone (B. Tbn.). The percussion section includes a Timpani (Timp.). The string section is represented by Violins (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (DB). The score is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as 145. The woodwinds and brass are playing a melodic line, while the strings provide a rhythmic accompaniment. The percussion is playing a steady beat. The overall mood is dramatic and intense.

Tomb Mov. 2

42

171

165 (Picc.) *ff* *molto rit. ----- a tempo*

Fl. 2
Picc.

Cl. 1

1
Bn.

2

165 *ff*

1
Hn. 2

2

3

Tpt. 1

1
Tbn.

2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

165 *ff*

Timp.

165 *ff* *molto rit. ----- a tempo*

I
Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

165 171

DB

Tomb Mov. 2

43

Poco meno mosso
(♩ = 140 mcg)

[illegible]

Poco meno mosso
(♩ = 140 mcg)

Tomb Mov. 2

183

Fl. 1

p

1

Cl.

2

p

Bn. 1

p

183

1

Hn. 2

2

4

p

p

p

183

I

Vln.

II

p

Vla.

p

Vc.

p

183

DB

p

Tomb Mov. 2

191

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bn. 1

Bn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 4

Tuba

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

p

p

p

p

199

200

Bn. 1

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

mp *mf* *f* *pp*

p *mp* *mf*

p *mp* *mf* *f*

mf *f* *pp*

f *pp*

mf *f* *pp*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *pp*

p *mp* *mf* *f*

200

Tomb Mov. 2

46

Toccata velocopedia (♩ = 160 mcg)

211

Fl. 1 *pp* *ff*

Ob. 1 *ff*

Ob. 2 *ff*

Cl. 1 *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff*

Bn. 1 *ff*

Hn. 1 *ff*

Hn. 2 *ff*

Hn. 3 *ff*

Tpt. 1 *pp* *ff*

Tpt. 2 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Vln. I *trem.* *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *trem.* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

DB *ff*

211

Toccata velocopedia (♩ = 160 mcg)

Tomb Mov. 2

47

219

1 Fl. *ff* (Picc.)

2 Picc. *ff*

Ob. 2

1 Cl. *ff*

2 Cl. *ff*

Bn. 1 *ff*

219

1 Hn. 3 *ff*

4 Hn. 4 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff* assez

219

I Vln. *ff*

II Vln. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

219 DB *ff*

Poco meno mosso (♩ = 140 mcg)

rit. -----

228

1

Fl.

(Picc.)

p

2

Picc.

p

1

Ob.

p

2

ff *p*

Cl. 1

ff *p*

228

I

Vln.

ff *p*

II

ff *p*

Vla.

ff *p*

Vc.

pizz.

p

228

DB

pizz.

p

Poco meno mosso (♩ = 140 mcg)

rit. -----

Toccata velocopedia (♩ = 160 mcg)

236

Ob.2

1

Bn.

2

236

1

2

Hn.

3

4

1

2

Tpt.

Tuba

236

Timp.

236

I

II

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

DB

236

Toccata velocopedia (♩ = 160 mcg)

Tomb Mov. 2

50

247

1

Fl.

ff
(Picc.)

2

Picc.

ff

1

Ob.

ff

2

ff

1

Cl.

2

ff

1

Bn.

ff

2

ff

247

1

ff

2

ff

3

ff

4

ff

1

Tpt.

ff

2

ff

Tuba

247

Timp.

ff

247

I

Vln.

ff

II

ff

Vla.

ff

Vc.

ff

DB

ff

247

Tomb Mov. 2

51

253

Fl. 1

1

Ob.

2

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

253

1

Hn.

2

4

1

Tpt.

2

Tuba

253

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

253

DB

Tomb Mov. 2

52

Poco meno mosso (♩ = 140 mcg)

260

Fl. 1

ff > *mf*

Ob. 1

p

1

Cl.

p

2

p

260

Hn.

1

ff > *mf*

2

1

Tpt.

ff > *mf*

2

ff > *mf*

260

I

Vln.

ff > *p*

II

ff > *p*

Vla.

ff > *p*

Vc.

ff > *p*

260

DB

ff > *mf*

p

Poco meno mosso (♩ = 140 mcg)

Tomb Mov. 2

53

This musical score page contains measures 271 through 275 of a symphony. The instruments are arranged in two systems. The first system includes Fl. 2 Picc., Ob. 1, Cl. 1 & 2, Bn. 1, and Hn. 2. The second system includes Vln. I & II, Vla., Vc., and DB. The score is in 6/8 time and features a key signature change to one flat (B-flat major or D minor) at measure 275. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *ppp* (pianississimo). The Piccolo part is marked (Picc.) at measure 275. The score is numbered 271 at the top left and 275 at the bottom center.



279

Cl.

1

2

279

Hn.

1

4

279

Vln.

I

II

Vla.

Vc.

279

DB

Grave (♩ = 64)

Grave (♩ = 64)

7 14

Bn. 1 *mf* *f* *mp*

Bn. 2 *f* *mp* *p*

Hn. 1 *mf* *mf+*

Hn. 2

4

Tuba *f* *mp* *p*

Vln. I *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

DB *mf+* *f* *mp* *p*

14

15

Fl. 1 *mp* *cresc.* *mf+* *p*

Picc.

Bn. 1 *mf* *f* *p*

Hn. 2 *cresc.* *mp* *p*

Tuba *mp*

Vln. I *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *p*

Vln. II *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *p*

Vla. *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *p*

Vc. *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *p*

DB *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)* *f* *p*

[illegible]

30

28

Picc. *pp* >

Ob. 1 *pp* >

Cl. 1 *pp* >

Cl. 2 *pp* >

Bn. 1 *pp*

Bn. 2 > pp >

Hn. 3 *pp* >

Hn. 4 *pp* >

28

Timp. *pp*

Vln. I *pp* >

Vln. II *pp* >

Vla. *pp* >

Vc. *pp* >

28

DB *pp*

30

35

Ob. 1

1

Cl.

2

Bn. 1

2

Hn.

4

Tuba

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

DB

35

41

rit. a tempo

41

[illegible][illegible]

57

Ob. 1

1

Cl.

2

1

Bn.

2

mf

mf

Hn. 2

57

I

Vln.

II

Vla.

mp

Vc.

mf

57

DB

[illegible]

[illegible]