

Blaydon Races

TRADITIONAL, ARR. HUGH LEVEY



WIND QUINTET

SCORE & PARTS

Blaydon Races

TRADITIONAL (NORTHERN ENGLAND)

The town of Blaydon lies a few miles west of Newcastle in the north east of England and would have been rural when it became the scene of a famous horse race in the 19th century, immortalised in the words of this song. It tells the tale of a group of men and women on a day trip to the races on 9th June 1862 and the mishaps they had along the way; a wheel flying off the bus, someone getting a broken nose, and torrential rain that made everything muddy. The words were written by local music-hall performer Geordie Ridley in the same year. Although the story was not based on a specific series of real events, it paints the scene of what race day was like, with all its fun, jollity and mishaps.

Blaydon Races has become a local 'national anthem' for the people of north east England, especially around the city of Newcastle and the town of Gateshead. Locals sing this song in their 'Geordie' dialect on many occasions, including the soccer matches of Newcastle United Football Club. It is also the Regimental Song of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers .

We have been unable to identify who wrote the tune. It is unlikely to have been Ridley, because the earliest known publication of the words in 1863 indicates that it should be sung to a tune called "Brighton". This arrangement captures the joyfulness and chaos of the 1862 trip. The four verses have different arrangements, with the bassoon, oboe, flute and horn each getting an opportunity to play the tune. Like their journey, the arrangement starts off in good spirits, but there are unexpected key-changes mimicking the carriage's lurching and rolling. It all whips up to a fast and furious finale.

Duration—2 minutes 45 seconds to 3 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The tempo markings are for guidance, but momentum should be built throughout the piece. Pay particular attention to the dynamics which help ensure the correct balance between the instruments and also to the articulation which gives this song its character. I am sure you will enjoy playing it. The key is more suited to a Clarinet in A, but both Clarinet in Bb and Clarinet in A parts are provided, so the player can choose between them.

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Blaydon Races

Lyrics: Geordie Ridley

Traditional (arr. Hugh Levey)

$\text{♩} = 112$ Verse

Flute

Oboe Solo *mf*

B♭ Clarinet *mf* *mp*

Horn in F *mf* *mp*

Bassoon *mf* *mp*

7

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn. *mp*

13

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

mp

19

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

mf

Chorus

25

Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
F Hn.
Bsn.

This system contains measures 25 through 30. The Flute part features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The Oboe part has a similar eighth-note texture. The Bassoon part includes a trill marked with 'tr' in measure 29. The Clarinet and Horn parts provide harmonic support with various rhythmic patterns.

31

Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
F Hn.
Bsn.

This system contains measures 31 through 36. The Flute part continues with a melodic line, featuring a trill marked with 'tr' in measure 35. The Oboe part has a melodic line with eighth notes. The Bassoon part includes a trill marked with 'tr' in measure 35. The Clarinet and Horn parts provide harmonic support with various rhythmic patterns.

37

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

43

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

mf

mf

Solo

f

mf

mf

49

Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
F Hn.
Bsn.

This system contains measures 49 through 54. It features five staves for Flute, Oboe, Bb Clarinet, F Horn, and Bassoon. The music is in a key with three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature. The Flute part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Oboe and Bb Clarinet parts have similar melodic lines with accents. The F Horn and Bassoon parts provide harmonic support with rhythmic patterns. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 54.

55

Fl.
Ob.
Bb Cl.
F Hn.
Bsn.

This system contains measures 55 through 60. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The music continues with similar melodic and harmonic patterns. The Flute part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Oboe and Bb Clarinet parts have similar melodic lines with accents. The F Horn and Bassoon parts provide harmonic support with rhythmic patterns. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 60.