

The Deil's awa' wi' The Exciseman

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH (BURNS) ARR. HUGH LEVEY



CLARINET QUARTET

SCORE & PARTS

The Deil's awa' wi' the Exciseman

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH (BURNS)

The Deil's awa' wi' the Exciseman was written by the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns, in 1792. It is written in his native Scots tongue and tells the tale of the devil fiddling through the town and dancing away with the exciseman (tax collector). For part of his life Burns himself was an exciseman, with responsibility for bringing smugglers to justice on the Ayrshire coast of Scotland. In the song there is much cheer and rejoicing that the devil has taken away the taxman, so the locals can distil their whisky and brew their beer without having to pay any tax.

Burns wrote the words of the song, but set them to a variation of an existing tune called The Hemp Dresser which dates from the 17th century or earlier. It is a lively jig which is arranged here for Clarinet Quartet of 3 Bb clarinets and bass clarinet or 4 Bb clarinets.

The arrangement begins with the first clarinet and bass clarinet (or clarinet 4) playing the tune and bass line, almost exactly as they appeared in *The Scots Musical Museum*, published by James Johnson & Co in six volumes between 1787 and 1803. The other instruments all get the opportunity to play the melodic line in the ensuing 5 verses, as the arrangement gets more complex and fun. The arranger makes great use of the tritone; or "devil's interval" as it is often known because of its unsettling presence. However, in this arrangement it merely adds to the fun and excitement.

Duration: 2' 45"

Cover images: (1) Engraving from The complete works of Robert Burns: containing his poems, songs, and correspondence, 1852, published by Boston, Phillips, Sampson, and company. Public Domain, (2) Clarinet, Yamaha Corporation, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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The De'il's awa' wi' the Exciseman

Robert Burns

Traditional Scottish (arranged Hugh Levey)

Vivace

B♭ Clarinet 1
mf

B♭ Clarinet 2

B♭ Clarinet 3

B♭ Bass Clarinet
mf

6

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

11

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'The De'il's awa' wi' the Exciseman' by Robert Burns, arranged by Hugh Levey. The score is for a woodwind ensemble consisting of B♭ Clarinet 1, B♭ Clarinet 2, B♭ Clarinet 3, and B♭ Bass Clarinet. The tempo is marked 'Vivace' and the dynamic is 'mf'. The score is divided into three systems. The first system covers measures 1-5, the second system covers measures 6-10, and the third system covers measures 11-15. A large, semi-transparent watermark logo is centered over the middle system. The B♭ Clarinet 1 part has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the other parts have rests or simple accompaniment.

16

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

f

mf

f

f

PREVIEW ONLY

21

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

mf

mf

26

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

31

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

PREVIEW ONLY

36

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

f

41

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

f

mp

45

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

mp

mp

PREVIEW ONLY

49

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

54

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

59

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

mf

mf

mf

f

PREVIEW ONLY

62

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

f

mf

66

B♭ Cl.1

B♭ Cl.2

B♭ Cl.3

B♭ B. Cl.

f