

# *The Deil's awa' wi' The Exciseman*

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH (BURNS) ARR. HUGH LEVEY



**WIND QUINTET**

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 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.

The arrangement begins with oboe and bassoon 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) Instruments, Yamaha Corporation, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons*

© Copyright arrangement, 2021, Hugh Levey, woodwindly.com. All rights reserved. Do not copy or reproduce this music without the express permission of the copyright holder.

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

Robert Burns

Traditional Scottish (arranged Hugh Levey)

**Vivace**

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-5. The score is for a woodwind ensemble and includes parts for Flute, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The key signature is one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked **Vivace**. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present. The Flute part has rests. The Oboe part has a melodic line. The B♭ Clarinet part has rests. The Horn in F part has rests. The Bassoon part has a bass line. A large blue watermark with the text "PREVIEW ONLY" and a stylized logo is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for the second system, measures 6-10. The score continues the woodwind ensemble parts from the first system. The Flute part has rests. The Oboe part continues its melodic line. The B♭ Clarinet part has rests. The Horn in F part has rests. The Bassoon part continues its bass line. A large blue watermark with the text "PREVIEW ONLY" and a stylized logo is overlaid on the score.

12

Musical score for measures 12-16. The score is written for five staves. The first staff is a treble clef with a flat key signature. The second staff is a treble clef with a flat key signature. The third staff is a treble clef with a sharp key signature. The fourth staff is a treble clef with a flat key signature. The fifth staff is a bass clef with a flat key signature. The music consists of various rhythmic patterns and rests. A large blue watermark with the text "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the bottom half of the page.

17

Musical score for measures 17-21. The score is written for five staves. The first staff is a treble clef with a flat key signature. The second staff is a treble clef with a flat key signature. The third staff is a treble clef with a sharp key signature. The fourth staff is a treble clef with a flat key signature. The fifth staff is a bass clef with a flat key signature. The music includes dynamic markings: *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are also crescendo and decrescendo hairpins. A large blue watermark with a white logo is overlaid across the center of the page.

22

Musical score for measures 22-27. The score is written for five staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Treble 3, Treble 4, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the bottom half of the page.

28

Musical score for measures 28-33. The score is written for five staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Treble 3, Treble 4, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large, semi-transparent watermark with a stylized logo is overlaid across the center of the page.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The score is written for five staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Treble 3, Treble 4, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large blue watermark with the text "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the score. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) in measures 36 and 37.

39

Musical score for measures 39-43. The score is written for five staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Treble 3, Treble 4, and Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The music continues with various rhythmic patterns and rests. A large blue watermark with the text "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the score. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) in measure 39 and *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measure 41.

45

*mp*

**PREVIEW ONLY**

*mp*

50

*mp*

55

Musical score for measures 55-60. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The second staff is empty. The third and fourth staves are in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. A large blue watermark reading "PREVIEW ONLY" is overlaid across the bottom half of the page.

61

Musical score for measures 61-65. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The third staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps. The fourth staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. Dynamic markings include *mf* and *f*. A large blue watermark with a white logo is overlaid in the center of the page.