

Dukas Sorcerer's Apprentice
Quarter note = ca. 120-132

This is written in the German style." Which means it is written in the octave where it sounds, not an octave higher (French style). This means it is written in the bass clef playing open G in the top space. When it goes to the treble clef, it is played an octave higher than written so it sounds in the octave where it appears.

This piece used to be a favorite selection for auditions because it is such a popular work, and in the bass clef. Any part of this could be requested at an audition, so learn it all. I've chosen a few interesting sections to use for this article. There are not any "big" solos but many difficult tutti passages.

1- Measure #22 is a tutti passage played in the upper register (played an octave higher than written). Keep your throat opened and use good air support to ensure a full tone. The main thing here is to not get a weak or unfocused sound and, of course, to play very evenly. Tongue securely but not harshly or staccato.

2- The passage that begins before #45 is in unison with the clarinets and is played staccato but don't exaggerate it. The marc. marking indicates a strong tongue stroke but not too short. Keep the air pressure constant and strong throughout this section and really lean on the accented notes. Use both air and tongue to produce the accents. Play it very evenly and of course in tune.

3- The passage that begins before # 50 can get quite frantic. It is certainly the most difficult passage in the piece. Played ff throughout, it is an exercise in endurance and technique. Play the grace notes very short and late and keep the staccato light, despite the ff marking. An accent on the notes after the grace notes will help steady the pulse. There is no place to breathe without falling behind, so if you can't make it all in one breathe, I can't, just leave out a note or two, preferably the last two notes of a measure. It's more important to keep the pulse flowing. Practice this one, as with most, with a metronome.