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Title

The Wild Cheese

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Elliott Goldkind

The Wild Cheese

for Soprano & Chamber Orchestra

text by James Tate

The Wild Cheese, by James Tate

A head of cheese raised by wolves
or mushrooms
recently rolled into
the village, it
could neither talk nor
walk upright.

Small snarling boys ran
circles around it;
and just as they began
throwing stones, the Mayor
appeared and dispersed them.

He took the poor ignorant
head of cheese home,
and his wife scrubbed it
all afternoon before
cutting it with a knife
and serving it after dinner.

The guests were delighted
and exclaimed far into the night,
"That certainly was a wild cheese!"

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Flute
1 Oboe
1 Clarinet in Bb
1 Bassoon

2 Horns in F
1 Trumpet in C
1 Euphonium

Piano

Percussion (bass drum, snare, tom-toms, cymbals, triangle, tambourine)

Soprano

Strings

All notes sound as written except basses, which sound one octave lower than written.

Performance notes:

The last line of text, "That certainly was a wild cheese!" is to be shouted, loudly and vivaciously by all players, including the soprano and conductor.

The triangle solo in measure 58 is meant to reflect the dramatic yet absurdist nature of Tate's poem. The percussionist is granted complete freedom to create as wonderful a cadenza for triangle as he or she can. It is recommended that this solo last between 30 and 60 seconds, but this is just a suggestion.

Duration: ca. 4'30" - 5'.

The Wild Cheese

(Text by James Tate)

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SCORE IN C

slow, delicate (but not for long!) poco rit. a tempo $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 52$ **poco accel.** **brisk** $\text{♩} = 88$ **poco accel.**

Flute *ppp* *p* *p* *fp* *sfz* *mp* *f* *f* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Oboe *pp* *p* *fp* *sfz* *mp* *f* *f* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Clarinet in Bb *pp* *fp* *sfz* *f* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Bassoon *pp* *fp* *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Horns 1-2 in F *sfz* *f* *f* *p* *f* *sfz* *fp* *f*

Trumpet in C *pp* *sfz* *f* *fp* *f* *f* *sfz* *fp* *f*

Euphonium *sfz* *f* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Piano *pp* *delicato* *p* *pp* *mp* *mf* *f* *f* *mf* *f*

Percussion triangle (long) *p* * *p* *brisk* $\text{♩} = 88$ *f* *poco accel.* cymbal (b.d.) *mf* *fp* *f* snare (l.v.) *fp* (l.v.) *mp* *mp*

Soprano *mf* *mp* *mp*

Violin I *pp* *fp* *sfz* *mp* *f* *fp* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

Violin II *p* *fp* *ppp* *pp* *fp* *sfz* *mp* *f* *fp* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

Viola *p* *fp* *ppp* *fp* *sfz* *fp* *f* *fp* *p* *fp* *f* *mf* *f*

Violoncello *p* *fp* *ppp* *fp* *sfz* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *mf* *f*

Contrabass *p* *fp* *ppp* *fp* *sfz* *f* *p* *f* *p* *fp* *f*

A head of cheese raised by

33

Fl. *mf* *p sub.* *mf* *f* *fp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mf* *f* *mp* *mp* *p* *mf*³

Cl. *mf* *f* *fp* *mp* *mf*³

Bsn. *mp* *f* *mp* *p* *p* *mf*

Hn. *mp* *mp*

C Tpt. *mp* *p* *mp*

Euph. *mp* *p* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Perc. (rimshot) *p < mf* *pp* (toms) *mf* (l.v.)

S. (quasi-spoken) *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

And just as they be-gan throw-ing stones themayor ap-peared and dis-persed them He took thepoor ig-nor-ant head of cheese home

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

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

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

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

Cb. *mp* *mf* *p sub.* *f* *p* *f* *p sub.* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *mf*

poco meno mosso *poco stringendo* *poco rit.*

a tempo **poco rit.** **rit.** **a tempo**

47

Fl. *p* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mp* *f*

Ob. *p* *mf* *f*

Cl. *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *p* *mf* *f* *f*

Hn. *p* *mf* *f* *f*

C Tpt. *p* *mf* *f* *f*

Euph. *p* *mf* *f* *f*

Pno. *mf* *fp* *p sub.* *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. *a tempo* *mf* *mp* *mp* *f* *poco rit.* *rit.* *mp* *a tempo* *mf* *mp*

S. *mf* *fp* *port.* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *a tempo* *mf* *mp*

Vln. I *p* *p sub.* *mf* *mp* *mp espressivo!* *col legno.* *ord.* *pizz.* *f*

Vln. II *p* *p sub.* *mf* *mf* *mp* *col legno.* *ord.* *pizz.* *f*

Vla. *p* *p sub.* *mf* *p* *mp* *col legno.* *ord.* *pizz.* *f*

Vc. *p* *arco* *p sub.* *mf* *p* *mp* *f* *f*

Cb. *p* *arco* *p sub.* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

tambourine (l.v.) (toms) (b.d) (cym choke) (tri.) (l.v.)

and his wife scrubbed it all af-ter-noon be-fore cut-ting it with a knife and ser-ving it af-ter din-ner_ TUTTI

SOLO *mp espressivo!* *col legno.* *ord.* *pizz.*

58

brisk, hectic, accell al fine

Fl. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Ob. *mp* *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Hn. *p* *f* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

C Tpt. *mp* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *fp* *mf* *sfz*

Euph. *fp* *f* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Pno. *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *ff* *sfz*

Perc. TRIANGLE SOLO (calm, then frantic) *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *ff* *fp* *fp* *sfz*

S. *mp* *f* The guests were de-light-ed and exclaimed far in-to the night THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* **brisk, hectic, accell al fine**

Vln. I *arco* *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Vln. II *arco* *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Vla. *arco* *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Vc. *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*

Cb. *mf* *fp* *f* THAT CER-TAIN-LY WAS A WILD CHEESE! *f* *sfz*