

**A Musical Reimagining  
of the Epic 1889 French  
Novel '*Victoire et Appoline,  
ou, Comment Écrire une  
Biographie Historique*'  
by Desmond Codar  
Condensed into  
Six Short Minutes.**

*for wind quintet and two actors*

**Cameron Dodds**



**Flute**

- Harmonica
- Party Blower

**Oboe**

- Spare Reed
- Whistle
- Party Blower
- Kite
- Balloon

**Clarinet in Bb**

- Party Blower
- Balloon

**Horn in F**

- Wind Chimes
- Squeaky Toy Fish
- Party Blower
- Balloon

**Bassoon**

- Spare Reed
- Slide Whistle
- Party Blower

**Butler/Announcer**

- Briefcase
- Flag
- Tuxedo

**Wolf Lady**

- Red Cocktail Dress
- High Heels
- Wolf Mask

Composers Note

The piece is based on the epic French 1889 novel '*Victoire et Appoline, ou Comment Écrire une Biographie Historique*' by Desmond Codar, except '*Victoire et Appoline, ou Comment Écrire une Biographié Historique*' by Desmond Codar doesn't actually exist. It's a fabricated text that can only be designed by the audience upon their viewing of the piece and their own imaginative interpretations of the chapter titles, characters, scenarios, music, direction, props and structures.

The piece is designed to be heard and viewed as a sort of fast-forwarded mini opera.

## **Performance Notes**

At the beginning of each chapter, the clarinetist stands up and shouts the chapters number and name as loudly as they possibly can (from memory if possible).

The above does not include the 'Flower Interludes', which will be introduced by the butler.

After every flower interlude, a member of the ensemble will hold up a large sign to the audience that reads 'Applause!'.

The piece is to be performed in rapid, quick fire motion, all performers and relevant props must be in place at the start of every chapter. The piece should be thought about like a filmmakers camera switching between shots.

The whole piece should be performed with a cartoon-ish, dramatic, and playful manner.

Each performer has their own bag for their props which should be placed within easy reach.

The butler/announcer wears either a tuxedo, tails, or any other form of smart attire. Each time they leave the stage, they should make themselves more scruffy. An extreme but appropriate example would be: *Flower Interlude 2*) Shirt untucked, bow-tie undone, hair un-waxed...*Postlude*) Clothes completely ripped, face bloodied, mud all over shirt.

The butler/announcer walks onstage after being out of sight and delivers the 'Flower Interludes' in an extremely posh, English voice and each reiteration should be performed in the same manner. Each announcement is started:

*"Ladies and Gentleman, the sound of the (...)"*

The Wolf Lady will walk from one end of the stage to the other in a confident and striking manner in chapter 13, she must remain completely hidden at all other times.

The 'Alternate Reality Machine' should have a giant, cardboard sign covered in fairy lights above it that reads 'THE ALTERNATE REALITY MACHINE'. It should be covered by a large tablecloth and only revealed at the beginning of chapter 10. It should be placed centre-back stage.

The flagpole in the briefcase should be foldable or telescopic. The actual flag should be made of plastic and read 'Le Petite Apocalypse'.

*Commissioned by Listenpony for the Magnard Ensemble as part of the 2017 Waterloo Festival.  
for Freya, William, and Josephine.*

**Score in C**

**Roughly 6'00"**

# Chapter 1: Lem, the Robotic Blackbird, is Born.

♩=148 Pompous.

Cameron Dodds

Birdsong Like

Musical score for measures 1-3. The score is for five instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B $\flat$ , Horn in F, and Bassoon. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The Flute part is marked *mp* and includes the instruction "Birdsong Like" and "Reed alone (spare reed)". The Oboe part is marked *mf* and includes "Reed alone (spare reed)". The Horn in F part is marked *f* and includes "bonky" and "Reed alone (spare reed)". The Bassoon part is marked *mf* and includes "Reed alone (spare reed)".

Musical score for measures 4-6. The score is for four instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The Flute part includes a measure rest in measure 5. The Horn in F part is marked *f* and includes "8 $\flat$ ---|". The Bassoon part is marked *sffz* and includes "8 $\flat$ ---|".

Musical score for measures 7-9. The score is for four instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4. The Flute part includes a measure rest in measure 8. The Horn in F part includes a measure rest in measure 8. The Bassoon part includes a measure rest in measure 8.

# Chapter 2: Lem, the Robotic Blackbird, Dies.

♩=148. Exact, robotic.

Musical score for measures 1-3. The score is in 7/8 time. The instruments are Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The Flute part starts with a *mf* dynamic and a sixteenth-note triplet. The Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, and Bassoon parts start with a *mp* dynamic. The Horn in F part starts with a *mp* dynamic. The Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, and Bassoon parts have a *sfz* dynamic marking in measure 2.

Musical score for measures 4-6. The score is in 7/8 time. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts with a *sfz* dynamic. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts start with a *sfz* dynamic. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts have a *sfz* dynamic marking in measure 4. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts have a *sfz sfz* dynamic marking in measure 5. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts have a *sfz* dynamic marking in measure 6.

Musical score for measures 7-9. The score is in 4/4 time. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts with a *f* dynamic. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts start with a *f* dynamic. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts have a *f* dynamic marking in measure 7. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts have a *f* dynamic marking in measure 8. The Oboe, Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts have a *f* dynamic marking in measure 9.

Chapter 3: The Laughing Chemicals in  
Dr. Pelletier's Laboratory Suffocate and kill all Five  
Protagonists, but they are Quickly Replaced by  
all new Characters who will Continue the Lives,  
Positions, and Relationships of the Previous  
Cast for the rest of the Novel.

**molto rit.**  
♩=200 **Sound insane.**

**f** Sung. **ff** Pick the highest note you can sing in chest voice and freely gliss to the lowest with no regard to tempo. Breathe when necessary. Finish together.

Flute cues ending.

*gliss.*

Har har har har har har har har.

**f** Sung. **ff** Pick the highest note you can sing in chest voice and freely gliss to the lowest with no regard to tempo. Breathe when necessary. Finish together.

Clarinet in B $\flat$

*gliss.*

Har har har har har har har har. Har har.

**f** Sung. **ff** Pick the highest note you can sing in chest voice and freely gliss to your lowest with no regard to tempo. Breathe when necessary. Finish together.

(♩=100)

Horn in F

*gliss.*

Har har har har har har har har. Har har har har harhar har.



# Flower Interlude 1: The English Rose

(after chapter 3)

After the announcer introduces the interlude, the horn player stands up to give their solo.

Choose the lowest note you can play, and then try to go even lower in accordance with the score.

Slow and achingly pathetic, breathe dramatically and unmusically.

Horn in F

The musical score is written on a single staff in bass clef, labeled 'Horn in F'. It begins with a 7/4 time signature, followed by a 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains a half note with a wavy line above it labeled 'Increasingly wide vib'. The second measure contains a quarter note with a wavy line above it and a fermata above the note, with 'sffffz' written below. The third measure is a 6/4 time signature with a half note and a fermata, with 'Hand gliss.' written above. The fourth measure is a 5/4 time signature with a half note and a fermata, with '"Wah" with hand.' written above. The fifth measure is a 4/4 time signature with a half note and a fermata, with 'To a gradual wheeze.' written above. The score ends with a double bar line.

"Lar's" to be sung out of tune, following the basic contour of the melody. It should sound childish and rude and slightly bored.

# Chapter 4: How to Feel Less Lonely

♩=140 Like a military march.

Flute  
Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar lar lar lar.

Oboe  
Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar lar lar lar.

Clarinet in Bb  
Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar lar lar lar.

Horn in F  
Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar. *sfz* *ff* Oom-pah like.

Bassoon  
Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar. *sfz* Lar lar lar lar lar lar.

Flute  
10  
Lar lar lar lar Lar lar lar lar

Oboe  
Pick up whistle. Lar lar lar lar Lar lar lar lar  
*fff* WHISTLE BLOWER!

Clarinet  
GROWL.  
Lar lar lar lar Lar lar lar lar

Horn  
*sfz sfz ff*

Bassoon  
Lar lar lar lar Lar lar lar lar

Flute  
16  
lar lar Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar

Oboe  
X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X

Clarinet  
lar lar Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar

Horn  
lar lar Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar

Bassoon  
lar lar Lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar lar

# Chapter 5: A Leisurely Stroll Around the Forest Provides Larks

♩=120 **Intense, military precision.**

Flute (Harmonica) *ff*

Oboe *ff*  
Harmonic gliss

Horn in F *ff*

Bassoon *ff*

Out/In

# Chapter 6: On the Way to the Opera, Jacques' Flamingo Exercises its Civil Responsibilites.

The image shows a musical score for two instruments: Horn and Bassoon. The Horn part is a single line with a brace on the left. The Bassoon part is a single line with a brace on the left. The score is written on a grand staff with two staves. The Horn part has a long note with a slur over it, starting with a *pp* dynamic and ending with a *ff* dynamic. The Bassoon part has a long note with a slur over it, starting with a *fff* dynamic and ending with a *gliss.* marking. There are two text boxes: one above the Horn staff that says "Hold chimes above head and blow." and one above the Bassoon staff that says "Slide Whistle". At the end of the Horn staff, there is a text box that says "Once peak volume is reached, let ring." The score ends with a double bar line.

Horn

Bassoon

Hold chimes above head and blow.

Slide Whistle

*fff*

*gliss.*

*pp* *ff*

Once peak volume is reached, let ring.

# Chapter 7: At the Opera

♩=100 (not slower!)

Spritely  
(flute, oboe, clarinet together)

Flute

*mp* 5

Spritely  
(flute, oboe, clarinet together)

Oboe

*mp* 5

Spritely  
(flute, oboe, clarinet together)

Clarinet

*mp* 5

Squeeze squeaky fish

Squeaky Fish Toy

5

Mock operatic voice,  
falsetto, wide vib. (Sing  
at comfortable octave)

Horn in F

*f* 5

Ya, yee, ya, yee, ya,

Unapologetic

Bassoon

*sfz sfz (sim.)*

5

Fl.

5

Ob.

5

Cl.

5

Squeaky Fish Toy

5

Hn.

ya, yee ya, ah. ya yee

Bsn.

## Flower Interlude 2: The Humble Olive Tree

After the announcer introduces the interlude, the clarinet player stands up to give their solo.

Clarinet: Literally freak out and play the most disgustingly dense and atonal lines with plenty of outdated extended techniques for 8 seconds. It should sound fast, brutal, and gross.

9

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

ya, ya, yee, ya

Bsn.

12

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

ah

Ya! Ya! Ya!

Bsn.

# Chapter 8: How to Steal an Egg

♩=140 With a military march like quality.

Musical score for the first system, featuring five instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The music is in 2/4 time and consists of 14 measures. The Flute part includes dynamic markings *fff*, *f*, and *fff*, with the instruction "Pant like a dog." above it. The Oboe part includes the instruction "Pick up whistle." and "Whistle!". The Clarinet in Bb part includes dynamic markings *f*, *fff*, and *f*, with the instruction "Pant like a dog." above it. The Horn in F part includes the instruction "Oom-pah again!" and dynamic marking *ff*. The Bassoon part includes dynamic marking *f*. The lyrics "Lar lar Lar lar lar lar" are written below the notes.

Musical score for the second system, featuring five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The music is in 2/4 time and consists of 14 measures. The Flute part includes dynamic markings *f*, *fff*, and *f*. The Clarinet part includes dynamic markings *fff*, *f*, *fff*, and *f*. The Horn part includes dynamic marking *ff*. The Bassoon part includes dynamic marking *f*. The lyrics "Lar lar lar lar lar lar" are written below the notes.



# Chapter 9: Chorale No.1

The flute gives a brief starting pitch of C. From this, the other notes are worked out by ear: Ob: D, Cl: E, Hn. F, Bsn: G (in regards to the performers comfortable octave). After playing their first note, the oboist will spend the rest of the chorale trying to build and fly a kite in a windless room.

These pitches are hummed into party blowers.

$\text{♩} = 80$  **Softly.**

The musical score is written for five instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B $\flat$ , Horn in F, and Bassoon. The time signature is 4/4, and the tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = 80$  **Softly.** The Flute part begins with a half note C. The Oboe, Clarinet in B $\flat$ , and Horn in F parts begin with a half rest. The Bassoon part begins with a half note G. A text box in the Oboe part says "Build and fly a kite in the remaining time." The score is written in treble clef for all instruments.

# Flower Interlude 3: The DafFOdil

(after chapter 9)

After the announcer introduces the interlude,  
the flute player stands up to give their solo.

## Even more pathetic than the last interlude

Trumpet embouchure.  
Written notes are a guideline,  
adjust embouchure as glissing.

**x5**  
(fluctuate tempo  
each repeat)

Flute

*f*

*gliss.*

# Chapter 10: They Briefly Visit an Alternate Reality Before Making Their Way Back Home.

♩=100 Every note played exactly the same!

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time and features five staves: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The Flute and Oboe parts are marked *mp* and play a sequence of eighth notes with various accidentals. The Clarinet in Bb part is silent. The Horn in F part is marked *mp* and plays a sequence of eighth notes. The Bassoon part is marked *mf* and plays a sequence of eighth notes. A text box in the Oboe staff reads: "After shouting the name of the movement, go to the 'alternate reality machine and spin it slowly clockwise'."

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute and Oboe parts continue with eighth notes. The Clarinet part has a "Pause..." box in measure 6 and a "Now anti-clockwise." box in measure 7. The Horn and Bassoon parts are silent. A measure rest is present in measure 5 for the Flute and Oboe parts.

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute and Oboe parts continue with eighth notes. The Clarinet part has a "Walk back to your seat." box in measure 10. The Horn and Bassoon parts continue with eighth notes. A measure rest is present in measure 9 for the Flute and Oboe parts.

# Chapter 11: Appoline's Sister Makes for the Country to Experiment Both With Alchemy and her Sexuality.

♩ = 90 With Baroque inflections, Strikingly Confident.  
Robotically

Musical score for measures 1-7. The score is for five instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B♭, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as ♩ = 90. The performance style is "With Baroque inflections, Strikingly Confident. Robotically".

- Flute: *sfz* (sim.)
- Oboe: *f*
- Clarinet in B♭: *f*
- Horn in F: *f*
- Bassoon: With Pomp, *f*

Musical score for measures 8-16. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The performance style is "With Baroque inflections, Strikingly Confident. Robotically".

- Fl.: *sfz sfz*
- Ob.: *p* → *f*
- Cl.: *sfz sfz*
- Hn.: *sfz sfz*
- Bsn.: *sfz sfz* (sim.)

Musical score for measures 17-24. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The performance style is "With Baroque inflections, Strikingly Confident. Robotically".

- Ob.: *sfz*

24

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

Messy

29

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

# Chapter 12: "Those that fear death are surely just narcissists! Waltz with me, darling, won't you?"

♩=90 Waltz

Extremely romantic rubato

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Horn in F

Bassoon

Blow up balloon

Release a little air at a time. (squeaky sound)

5

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

Release until air runs out.

# Chapter 13: Chorale No.2

The flute gives a brief starting pitch of A. From this, the other notes are worked out by ear: Ob: B, Cl: C, Hn: D, Bsn: E (in regards to the performers comfortable octave). While playing the chorale, a lady in a red cocktail dress, high heels and a wolf mask will walk from one end of the stage to the other.

These pitches are hummed into party blowers.

$\text{♩} = 80$  Gently.

Flute *mp*

Oboe *mp*

Clarinet in B $\flat$  *mp*

Horn in F *mp*

Bassoon *mp*

# Chapter 14: How to Smother a Parrot.

♩=140 March like, again.

Musical score for the first system, featuring five instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Horn in F, and Bassoon. The tempo is marked as ♩=140 and the style is 'March like, again.' The Flute part begins with a rest, followed by notes with dynamics *fff* and *f*, and includes the instruction '(PANT)'. The Oboe part has a rest followed by notes with dynamic *f* and the instruction 'WHISTLE AGAIN!'. The Clarinet part has notes with dynamics *f* and *fff*, and includes the instruction '(PANT)'. The Horn in F part has a melodic line with a slur and a sharp sign. The Bassoon part has notes with dynamics *f* and *fff*, and includes the instruction 'High pitched 'coo' like a bird.' The notes are labeled with 'Lar' and 'lar'.

Musical score for the second system, featuring five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn in F (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts with a measure rest and then notes with dynamics *fff* and *f*. The Oboe part has a rest followed by notes with dynamic *f*. The Clarinet part has notes with dynamics *fff* and *f*. The Horn in F part has a melodic line with a slur and a sharp sign. The Bassoon part has notes with dynamics *fff* and *f*. The notes are labeled with 'Lar' and 'lar'.



# Flower Interlude 4: Snowdrops

(after chapter 14)

After the announcer introduces the interlude, the bassoon player stands up to give their solo.

Prepare instrument...  
wait 5 seconds before playing bar 2.

(Play highest note possible)

Bassoon

The musical notation is on a single staff with a bass clef. It begins with a 5-second preparation period. The first note is a half note on the highest line of the staff, marked with an accent (>) and the dynamic marking *fffffz*. This is followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note on the second line from the top, a quarter note on the second space from the top, and a half note on the second space from the top. The piece ends with a double bar line.

**Chapter 15: As the Harrowing Winds Tear  
Down the Eastern Wing, Appoline Realises that  
a) It's Probably Impossible to Sustain Life on  
the Planet Neptune Without Readjusting the  
Oxygen Levels, Water Supply, Temperature  
and Surface Gravity, and b) Victoire Would  
Probably Never be Coming Home Again.**

After the Clarinettist introduces the chapter title, the Flower announcer/butler slowly walks on stage bloodied, beaten, and carrying a suitcase. He places the suitcase centre stage, kneels down and opens it, one latch at a time. He then pulls out a flag made of plastic and attached to a telescopic pole and waves it in the air high above his head. The flag should make a gentle 'whooshing' sound. This carries on into the postlude.

# Postlude

Cue: Allow the butler 7 seconds of waving the flag before starting.

$\text{♩} = 150$  Cartoon-ish.

Musical score for measures 1-4, featuring Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B $\flat$ , Horn in F, and Bassoon. The tempo is marked  $\text{♩} = 150$  and the style is "Cartoon-ish". The music is in 4/4 time and features a *fff* dynamic. The score includes triplet markings (3) and various accidentals.

Musical score for measures 5-8, featuring Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The score includes dynamic markings: *sfz*, *sfz*, *sffz*, *sffz*, *fffz*, *p*, *ff*, and *fff*. The music continues with triplet markings (3) and various accidentals.

9

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

*sfz sfz*

12

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

THE BUTLER KEEPS TAP DANCING!