

Pierre La Plante

AMERICAN SKETCHES

INSTRUMENTATION

1 – Conductor	1 – F Horn 2
3 – Flute 1	1 – F Horn 3
3 – Flute 2	1 – F Horn 4
1 – Piccolo	2 – Trombone 1
1 – Oboe 1	2 – Trombone 2
1 – Oboe 2	2 – Trombone 3
1 – Bassoon 1	1 – Euphonium TC
1 – Bassoon 2	2 – Euphonium BC
3 – B \flat Clarinet 1	4 – Tuba
3 – B \flat Clarinet 2	1 – Timpani
3 – B \flat Clarinet 3	2 – Mallet Percussion
2 – B \flat Bass Clarinet	<i>Orchestra Bells, Chimes, Xylophone, Vibraphone</i>
2 – E \flat Alto Saxophone 1	2 – Percussion 1
2 – E \flat Alto Saxophone 2	<i>Snare Drum, Bass Drum</i>
2 – B \flat Tenor Saxophone	3 – Percussion 2
1 – E \flat Baritone Saxophone	<i>Suspended Cymbal, Whip, Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Wood Block, Tenor Drum, Splash Cymbal</i>
2 – B \flat Trumpet 1	
2 – B \flat Trumpet 2	
2 – B \flat Trumpet 3	
1 – F Horn 1	

Complete Band	\$80.00
Full Score	8.00
Parts, each	2.00

Daehn
PUBLICATIONS

As with many folksongs, *The Shantyman's Life* exists in numerous versions. This setting is based on a transcription from a field recording I found in the archives of the Mills Music Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I am grateful to the library staff for their assistance and their permission to use the song. A shantyman is another name for a logger, or lumberjack. Many of these songs by and about shantymen can be boastful and bawdy, but this particular song seems more introspective, subdued, and tinged with a bit of loneliness:

*Come all you jolly fellows, come listen to my song.
It's all about the pin'ry boys and how they got along.*

.....

*Into the lonesome pine woods, all winter to remain.
A-waiting for the springtime to return again.*

The Erie Canal, while appearing in numerous collections as a folksong, was actually written in 1906 by Thomas Allen and refers to the famous canal (finished in 1825) that connected the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. Rivers and canals were the main mode of transportation for bulk goods long before paved highways and even the railroads. Excerpts from the lyrics provide a mini history lesson:

I've got a mule and her name is Sal, fifteen miles on the Erie Canal.

.....

*We've hauled some barges in our day, filled with lumber, coal and hay...
And we know every inch of the way, from Albany to Buffalo.
Low bridge, everybody down,
Low bridge for we're coming to a town.*

Shoo Fly is now a well known children's song, but had its origins with African American soldiers during the Civil War and was also popular during the Spanish American War, no doubt because of the deprivations and awful living conditions brought on by war. The original lyrics would nowadays be considered offensive, and much background and speculative information regarding the song can be found online.

The present lyrics are as follows:

*Shoo Fly don't bother me (3x)
I feel, I feel, I feel...I feel like the morning star! (3x)*

The first performance of *American Sketches* was at Bruce High School (Bruce, WI) on November 19, 2013, by the Lakeland All-Conference Honors Band under the direction of Dr. John R. Stewart. The inclusion of *The Shantyman's Life* was a happy coincidence, given that Bruce is located in Northern Wisconsin, once the heart of the great pine timber industry of 19th Century Wisconsin.

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AMERICAN SKETCHES

1. THE SHANTYMAN'S LIFE

Pierre La Plante

Moderato ♩ = 60

rit. 4 A Tempo

Flute 1 2

Piccolo

Oboe 1 2

Bassoon 1 2

B♭ Clarinet 1 2 3

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophone 1 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

B♭ Trumpet 1 2 3

F Horn 1 2 3 4

Trombone 1 2 3

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Mallet Percussion

Percussion 1 2

8 14

Fl. 1/2

Picc.

Ob. 1/2

Bsn. 1/2

B♭ Cl. 1/2/3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1/2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

p *mf* *a2* *mp* *mf* *Play*

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Tpt. 1/2/3

Hn. 1/2/3/4

Tbn. 1/2/3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1/2

p *a2* *mp* *mf* *Orch. Bells*

15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

Fl. 1 2 *f* *a2* *mp*

Picc. *f*

Ob. 1 2 *solo mp*

Bsn. 1 2 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3 *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

B. Cl. *f* *mp*

A. Sax. 1 2 *f* *p*

T. Sax. *f*

Bar. Sax. *f* *p*

Tpt. 1 2 3 *f* *a2*

Hn. 1 2 3 4 *f* *a2* *p*

Tbn. 1 2 3 *mf* *f* *a2* *a2* *p*

Euph. *f* *p*

Tba. *f* *p*

Timp. *p* *mf* *p*

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2 *S. D. p* *B. D. mf* *f*

24 27 31

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

24 25 26 *div. ad lib* 27 28 29 30 31

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

Sus. Cym.

p *mp* *mf* *f* *a2*

32 35 Fl. 1 *div.*

1 *mf* *p* *p*

2

Picc. *p*

Ob. 1 *mf* *p* *p*

2

Bsn. 1 *mf* *p* *a2*

2

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* *p* *p*

2

3 *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *p*

A. Sax. 1 *mf* *p*

2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax. *mf* *p* Low WW, Brass *p*

32 33 34 35 36 37 38

Tpt. 1 *a2* *p*

2 *p*

3 *p*

Hn. 1 *p* *Hn.*

2 *p*

3 *p*

4 *p*

Tbn. 1 *a2* *p* *a2* *3* *a2*

2 *p*

3 *p*

Euph. *Low WW* *mf* *p* *Play*

Tba. *p*

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. *p*

Perc. 1

2

DP 200515

2. THE ERIE CANAL

Unhurried, easy swing ♩ = 114

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Unhurried, easy swing' with a quarter note equal to 114 beats per minute. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). There are also performance instructions like 'a2' (second octave) and 'Play'. A rehearsal mark '5' is placed above the fifth measure of the Flute part. The percussion section includes S.D. (Snare Drum), B.D. (Bass Drum), and Wood Block. The woodwind section includes Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet in B-flat, Clarinet in C, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpet, Horn (3 and 4), Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The timpani and xylophone parts are also present.

8 13 straight eighths

Fl. 1 2 *mf* *f* *a2* straight eighths

Picc. *mf* *f* straight eighths

Ob. 1 2 *f* straight eighths

Bsn. 1 2 *f*

B. Cl. 1 2 3 *f*

A. Sax. 1 2 *mf* *f* Hn. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *f*

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 straight eighths

Tpt. 1 2 3 *mf* *f* *a2* straight eighths

Hn. 1 2 3 4 *f*

Tbn. 1 2 3 *a2* *mf* *f* *a2* 3 2 3 *a2*

Euph. *mf* *f*

Tba. *mf* *f*

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. *mf* *f*

Perc. 1 2 *f* Tenor Drum *f*

22 27

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. Bells

Perc. 1 2

mp

a2

f

29 33

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

29 30 31 32 33 34 35

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

Xyl.

Wood Block

mp *mf* *p* *a2* *a2*

36 37

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B^b Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

36 37 38 39 40 41 42

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

rit. 52 A Tempo 55

FL. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B. Cl. 1 2 3

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

50 51 52 53 54 55 56

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

Sus. Cym. Cr. Cym.

p *f* *a2*

59

57

Fl. 1 2 *ff* *mp* *a2*

Picc. *ff* *mp*

Ob. 1 2 *ff* *mp*

Bsn. 1 2 *ff*

B^b Cl. 2 3 *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

A. Sax. 1 2 *ff*

T. Sax. *ff*

Bar. Sax. *ff*

57 58 59 60 61 62

Tpt. 1 2 3 *ff* *a2*

Hn. 1 2 3 4 *ff* *a2*

Tbn. 1 2 3 *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Mlt. Perc. *ff* *ww*

Perc. 1 2 *ff*

3. SHOO FLY (DON'T BOTHER ME)

Capriciously ♩ = 112

5

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes Flute (1/2), Piccolo, Oboe (1/2), Bassoon (1/2), B♭ Clarinet (1/2/3), and B Clarinet. The saxophone section includes Alto Saxophone (1/2), Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpet (1/2/3), Horn (1/2/3/4), Trombone (1/2/3), Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Mallet Percussion (Xyl. and S.D.), and Percussion (1/2). The score begins at measure 5, marked with a box containing the number '5'. The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line starting on a half note, moving to a quarter note, and then a dotted quarter note. The percussion features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with brushes, marked *mp*. The tempo is marked 'Capriciously' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute.

12 19

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B. Cl. 1 2 3

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

23 27

Fl. 1 2 *f* *mf*

Picc. *f*

Ob. 1 2 *f*

Bsn. 1 2 *a2* *f*

1 *f*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1 2 *f* *mf*

T. Sax. *f* *mf*

Bar. Sax. *f*

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Tpt. 1 *mf*

2 3 *f* *mf*

Hn. 1 2 *f*

3 4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

2 3 *a2*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. *f*

Perc. 1 2

65

61 A Tempo (♩ = 112)

57 *rit.* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Xyl. *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

1 player

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

with sticks near rim *mp*

68 73 Play *f*

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax. *tutti* *f*

Bar. Sax. *f*

68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc. *f* Bells *f* normal *f*

Perc. 1 2 *f* Cr. Cym. *f*

105 A Tempo

rit.

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

p, *mf*, *mf*, *a2*, *Ob.*, *div.*, *Play*, *Xyl.*, *near rim*

accel.

118 Fast ♩ = 120

109

Fl. 1 2

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

p *sf* *ff*

Euph.

Play *a2*

Whip

109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119

Tpt. 1 2 3

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 2

1 player per part

p *sf* *ff*

a2 *tutti*

Hn. *p* *sf* *ff*

Tbn. 3 cued in Tbn. 2

Play *ff*

Whip

Cr. Cym.

Whip

sf *ff* *Tri. ff*

+ Bells