

for R.H.

# BALDR

*god of light and beauty*

Meditation for small orchestra

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ORCHESTRA:

2 flutes  
2 oboes  
2 clarinets in B $\flat$   
2 bassoons  
2 horns

marimba  
harp

strings

score printed in C  
durata circa 19 minutes

From The Prose Edda  
of Snorri Sturlson

Translated by Arthur Gilchrist Brodeur [1916]

... the story is this, that Baldr the Good dreamed great and perilous dreams touching his life. When he told these dreams to the Æsir, then they took counsel together: and this was their decision: to ask safety for Baldr from all kinds of dangers. And Frigg took oaths to this purport, that fire and water should spare Baldr, likewise iron and metal of all kinds, stones, earth, trees, sicknesses, beasts, birds, venom, serpents. And when that was done and made known, then it was a diversion of Baldr's and the Æsir, that he should stand up in the Thing,[1] and all the others should some shoot at him, some hew at him, some beat him with stones; but whatsoever was done hurt him not at all, and that seemed to them all a very worshipful thing.

"But when Loki Laufeyarson saw this, it pleased him ill that Baldr took no hurt. He went to Fensalir to Frigg, and made himself into the likeness of a woman. Then Frigg asked if that woman knew what the Æsir did at the Thing. She said that all were shooting at Baldr, and moreover, that he took no hurt. Then said Frigg: 'Neither weapons nor trees may hurt Baldr: I have taken oaths of them all.' Then the woman asked: 'Have all things taken oaths to spare Baldr?' and Frigg answered: 'There grows a tree-sprout alone westward of Valhall: it is called Mistletoe; I thought it too young to ask the oath of.' Then straightway the woman turned away; but Loki took Mistletoe and pulled it up and went to the Thing.

"Hödr stood outside the ring of men, because he was blind. Then spake Loki to him: 'Why dost thou not shoot at Baldr?' He answered: 'Because I see not where Baldr is; and for this also, that I am weaponless.' Then said Loki: 'Do thou also after the manner of other men, and show Baldr honor as the other men do. I will direct thee where he stands; shoot at him with this wand.' Hödr took Mistletoe and shot at Baldr, being guided by Loki: the shaft flew through Baldr, and he fell dead to the earth; and that was the greatest mischance that has ever befallen among gods and men.

"Then, when Baldr was fallen, words failed all the Æsir, and their hands likewise to lay hold of him; each looked at the other, and all were of one mind as to him who had wrought the work, but none might take vengeance, so great a sanctuary was in that place. But when the Æsir tried to speak, then it befell first that weeping broke out, so that none might speak to the others with words concerning his grief. But Odin bore that misfortune by so much the worst, as he had most perception of how great harm and loss for the Æsir were in the death of Baldr.

"Now when the gods had come to themselves, Frigg spake, and asked who there might be among the Æsir who would fain have for his own all her love and favor: let him ride the road to Hel, and seek if he may find Baldr, and offer Hel a ransom if she will let Baldr come home to Ásgard. And he is named Hermódr the Bold, Odin's son, who undertook that embassy. Then Sleipnir was taken, Odin's steed, and led forward; and Hermódr mounted on that horse and galloped off.

"The Æsir took the body of Baldr and brought it to the sea. Hringhorni is the name of Baldr's ship: it was greatest of all ships; the gods would have launched it and made Baldr's pyre thereon, but the ship stirred not forward. Then word was sent to Jötunheim after that giantess who is called Hyrrokkin. When she had come, riding a wolf and having a viper for bridle, then she leaped off the steed; and Odin called to four berserks to tend the steed; but they were not able to hold it until they had felled it. Then Hyrrokkin went to the prow of the boat and thrust it out at the first push, so that fire burst from the rollers, and all lands trembled.

# BALDR

## God of Light and Beauty

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Adagio ♩ = 60

Flute 1  
Flute 2  
Oboe 1  
Oboe 2  
Clarinet in B $\flat$  1  
Clarinet in B $\flat$  2  
Bassoon 1  
Bassoon 2  
Horn in F 1  
Horn in F 2

Adagio ♩ = 60

Marimba  
Harp

Adagio ♩ = 60

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello  
Double Bass

Con sord.  
*pppp*  
*pppp*  
*pppp*  
*pppp*  
*pppp*



23

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb. *mf*

Hp. *mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *pp*

Vc.

D.B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 23 to 26. The score is for a full orchestra. The woodwinds (Flutes 1 & 2, Oboes 1 & 2, Bassoons 1 & 2, Horns 1 & 2) and strings (Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) are active. The percussion section includes a Maracas player (Mrb.) and a Harpist (Hp.). The woodwinds and strings play sustained notes with various articulations, while the harp and maracas provide rhythmic accompaniment. The dynamic markings range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score is written in a 3/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

This page of a musical score, numbered 6, contains measures 27 through 30. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with multiple staves for different instruments. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flutes (Fl. 1, Fl. 2):** Fl. 1 plays a melodic line starting on a half note in measure 27, followed by quarter notes in measures 28 and 29. Fl. 2 plays a similar line, often in parallel with Fl. 1.
- Oboes (Ob. 1, Ob. 2):** Both oboes are mostly silent, indicated by rests.
- Clarinets (B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2):** B♭ Cl. 1 plays a melodic line with quarter notes. B♭ Cl. 2 plays a lower, sustained line.
- Bassoons (Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2):** Both bassoons play a sustained, low-frequency line.
- Horns (Hn. 1, Hn. 2):** Both horns play a sustained, low-frequency line.
- Maracas (Mrb.):** The maracas play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Harp (Hp.):** The harp plays a complex, flowing arpeggiated pattern in the left hand and a more melodic line in the right hand.
- Violins (Vln. I, Vln. II):** Vln. I plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *pp.* Vln. II plays a similar line, often in parallel with Vln. I.
- Viola (Vla.):** The viola plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *pp.*
- Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D.B.):** Both play a sustained, low-frequency line.

The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, stems, beams, and dynamic markings. The page number '6' is located at the top left, and the measure number '27' is written above the first staff.



39

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf*

*mp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 39 to 48. The woodwind section includes two flutes (Fl. 1 and Fl. 2), two oboes (Ob. 1 and Ob. 2), two bass clarinets (B♭ Cl. 1 and B♭ Cl. 2), and two bassoons (Bsn. 1 and Bsn. 2). The string section consists of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). Percussion includes Maracas (Mrb.) and Harp (Hp.). The score features various dynamics: *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Fl. 2 and Ob. 1; *mp* (mezzo-piano) for Ob. 2; and *pp* (pianissimo) for B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, and the strings. Fl. 1 and Ob. 1 play melodic lines with slurs and accents. The strings provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. The percussion parts are mostly rests.



48

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf*

*pp*

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*



65

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*pppp*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*



72

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Hn. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*p*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

Musical score for measures 80-86. The score includes parts for Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 80 is marked with a dynamic of *pp*. Measures 81-82 show woodwinds and strings playing. Measures 83-86 continue the orchestral texture with various dynamics including *pp* and *p*.



Musical score for measures 87-94. The score includes parts for Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature changes to one flat (B-flat). Measure 87 is marked with a dynamic of *p*. Measures 88-94 continue the orchestral texture with various dynamics including *p* and *pp*.

94

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mp*

*pp*

*ppp*

piu mosso ♩ = 90

100

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

piu mosso ♩ = 90

Mrb.

Hp.

piu mosso ♩ = 90

100

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

109

Fl. 1 *p* *pp*

Fl. 2 *p* *pp*

Ob. 1 *pp*

Ob. 2 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *pp*

Bsn. 1 *pp*

Bsn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 1 *p*

Hn. 2 *p*

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I 109

Vln. II *ppp* *pp*

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 109 to 118. The woodwind section (Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Horns) is active in measures 109-112, with dynamic markings of *p* and *pp*. The strings (Violins, Viola, Cello, Double Bass) enter in measure 109 with a *ppp* dynamic. The Horns have a short melodic phrase in measure 118. The Mallets, Harp, and Percussion parts are silent throughout this section.





129

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *p*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *p*

Bsn. 1 *pp*

Bsn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 1 *pp*

Hn. 2 *pp*

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II

Vla. *p* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

D.B. *p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 17, contains measures 129 through 134. The score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes parts for Flute 1 and 2, Oboe 1 and 2, Bassoon 1 and 2, Horn 1 and 2, and Mallets (Mrb.). The second system includes parts for Violin I and II, Viola, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The music is written in treble and bass clefs. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), and *ppp* (pianississimo). The score features various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and rests.

137

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pppp*

*pppp*

*pppp*

*pppp*

*pp*



Adagio ♩ = 60

154

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *pp*

Bsn. 1 *pp*

Bsn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 1 *pp*

Hn. 2 *pp*

Adagio ♩ = 60

Mrb. *mf*

Hp. *mf*

Adagio ♩ = 60

154

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc.

D.B.

160

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

164

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

This page of a musical score, page 23, covers measures 172 through 181. The score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes woodwinds, percussion, and harp. The second system includes strings. The woodwind section consists of Flutes 1 and 2, Oboes 1 and 2, Bass Clarinets 1 and 2, Bassoons 1 and 2, and Horns 1 and 2. The percussion section includes Maracas (Mrb.) and Harp (Hp.). The string section includes Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.).

Measures 172-174 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in Flute 1, Oboe 1, and Bassoon 1. Flute 2 and Bassoon 2 have rests. Oboe 2 has a melodic line starting in measure 174. Bass Clarinet 1 and Bass Clarinet 2 have rests. Horns 1 and 2 have rests. Maracas and Harp have rests.

Measures 175-176 feature a melodic line in Flute 2 and Oboe 1, marked *mp*. Oboe 2 has a melodic line marked *mf* in measure 175 and *mp* in measure 176. Bass Clarinet 1 and Bass Clarinet 2 have rests. Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 have melodic lines marked *pp*. Horns 1 and 2 have rests. Maracas and Harp have rests.

Measures 177-181 feature a melodic line in Flute 2 and Oboe 1, marked *mp*. Oboe 2 has a melodic line marked *mp*. Bass Clarinet 1 and Bass Clarinet 2 have rests. Bassoon 1 and Bassoon 2 have melodic lines marked *pp*. Horns 1 and 2 have rests. Maracas and Harp have rests.

181

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Ob. 1  
Ob. 2  
B♭ Cl. 1  
B♭ Cl. 2  
Bsn. 1  
Bsn. 2  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2  
Mrb.  
Hp.  
Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.  
D.B.

*mf*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*mp*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*p*  
*pp*  
*pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 181 to 188. The woodwind section includes two flutes (Fl. 1 and 2), two oboes (Ob. 1 and 2), two bassoons (Bsn. 1 and 2), and two horns (Hn. 1 and 2). The strings consist of Violin I and II, Viola, Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The keyboard section includes Mallets (Mrb.) and Harp (Hp.). The score features various dynamics such as *mf*, *pp*, and *mp*. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines, while the harp provides accompaniment. The mallets are silent throughout this section.





*piu mosso* ♩ = 90

197

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Ob. 1  
Ob. 2  
B♭ Cl. 1  
B♭ Cl. 2  
Bsn. 1  
Bsn. 2  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2

*piu mosso* ♩ = 90

Mrb.  
Hp.

*piu mosso* ♩ = 90

197

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.  
D.B.

208

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

208

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

The musical score for page 27, measures 208-214, is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section (Flutes, Oboes, Bass Clarinets, Bassoons) and strings (Violins, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) are active, while the Maracas and Harp are silent. The woodwinds play melodic lines with various dynamics, including *pp* and *ppp*. The strings provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines. The score is written in a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature.





237

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb. *mf*

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 30, covers measures 237 through 244. The score is for a full orchestra. The woodwind section includes two flutes (Fl. 1 and Fl. 2) playing a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic, two oboes (Ob. 1 and Ob. 2) with rests, two bass clarinets (B♭ Cl. 1 and B♭ Cl. 2), two bassoons (Bsn. 1 and Bsn. 2), and two horns (Hn. 1 and Hn. 2). The percussion section features a pair of mridangams (Mrb.) playing a rhythmic pattern with a *mf* dynamic, and a harp (Hp.) providing harmonic support. The string section consists of two violins (Vln. I and Vln. II) playing a melodic line, a viola (Vla.), a cello (Vc.), and a double bass (D.B.). The score is written in 4/4 time with frequent changes to 3/4 and 2/4 time signatures. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The first measure of the page is marked with the number 237.

245

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

254

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.





271

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

271

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*f*





297

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Mrb.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*ppp*