

Cuddly Animals

violin concerto no.1, opus 13

1. Gorby, the gorilla
2. Agly, the hedgehog
3. Henry, the crocodile
4. Ricky, the frog
5. Wappy, the chimp

commissioned

by Jeroen Weierink

composed

between 29th March 1997 and 23rd January 1998

dedicated

to Saschko Gawriloff

duration

ca. 24 min.

premièred

on 14th November 1998 at the Stadshuis in Bloemendaal (The Netherlands) by Marijn Simons (violin), The Holland Windplayers & Jeroen Weierink (conductor).
Premièred as a ballet production on 31st May 2000 at the theatre Lantaarn/Venster in Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

published

by Donemus

recorded

by Marijn Simons (violin), The Holland Windplayers & Jeroen Weierink (conductor)
on Etcetera Records KTC 1219

scoring

Solo Violin

2 Flutes (both also Piccolo)

2 Oboes

Clarinet in Eb

Clarinet in Bb (also Clarinet in A)

Bass Clarinet in Bb

2 Bassoons (2nd also Contrabassoon)

2 Horns in F

Percussion (2 players): 3 Timpani, Xylophone, Tam-tam, Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, 2 Side Drums, Marimba (5 octaves)

Contrabass

television production

by Opus Arte Mediaproductions

Marijn Simons on *Cuddly Animals*:

In 1997 I composed my first violin concerto *Cuddly Animals* (dedicated to Saschko Gawriloff) for an orchestra consisting of wind instruments, double bass and percussion. *Cuddly Animals* consists of 5 parts, the first three and the last two running into each other attacca. Each part bears the name of one of the five dearest cuddly toys I possessed as a child... not so long ago.

Each cuddly animal had in my imagination a character of its own. These cartoon-like characters combined with their real animal characters form the basis of each separate part of this violin concerto.

Gorby, the gorilla, is good-humoured and peaceable, however he likes to frighten the other animals by his imposing roar and chest-beating (kettledrums).

Agly, the hedgehog, on his pattering little paws is always looking for things to eat, but do not press him too hard for you might be hurt by his quills (mallets).

Henry, the crocodile, as a toy is a tiny friendly crocodile, but in this part his real animal character prevails. Like an assassin he comes sliding through the murky waters to grasp his prey, his jaws snap shut and turning his body he kills his prey, then disappears under water and all is deadly quiet.

Ricky, the frog, is a clumsy catcher of insects (bassoons) but he is never angry and remains quiet and good-humoured, but sometimes he is successful after all (violin and bassoons fall into the same rhythm). This hedonist takes time off to bask in the sunshine on a lily-leaf (violin improvisatory).

Wappy, the chimp, is a real tease (violin) and a torment for every animal, he keeps on teasing (the whole orchestra in an uproar) even the most peaceable animal wants to fight him (double bass).

One last time all animals take their bows just like the chief actors after an opera performance, this is followed by a static finale.

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