

Sonaga for Second French Horn & Piano Theatrical Notes

with page turner, string bass player and brass quartet

1st movement

1. The page turner's chair is initially placed to the side nearer the back of the stage, as is normal. However, as the horn player and pianist enter and bow to the audience, the page turner moves the chair to the side of the pianist nearer the audience.
2. As the page turner attempts to turn the page at measure 18 (obviously unnecessarily), he drops the music on the floor. The pianist continues to play, reading the music on the floor between his legs. The page turner scrambles to pick up the music, but first he places it on the music rack upside down. He sees his mistake, turns over the music, then sits down, pulls a large red handkerchief from his pocket, and wipes his brow. Clearly, the pianist must have this section memorized.
3. At measure 62, as the music becomes ridiculously melodramatic, the page turner rises slightly in his chair, overcome with emotion. He may even pull out his handkerchief and wipe tears from his eyes.

2nd movement

1. At measure 53, following the turn to page 5, the page turner checks his watch, pulls a pocket crossword puzzle book from his pocket and begins to fill in answers. So involved is he that at measure 65, the pianist has to turn page 6 himself.
2. At measure 89, the page turner is lulled to sleep by the music. The pianist tries to get his attention but is unsuccessful. At measure 103, he jabs the page turner, who awakens with a yelp precisely on the first beat.
3. The page turner should amuse himself at other times during the movement as he sees fit.

3rd movement

1. At measure 20, the horn player apparently enters erroneously, eliciting a shout of "*not yet!*" from the pianist. The horn player looks miffed and gives the pianist a dirty glance. When, at measure 22, the pianist says "*now,*" the horn player should either remain sullenly silent or else play something completely out of context. The pianist stops playing by measure 24. He takes his music over to the horn player and compares it to the horn part. The page turner may either join them or go back to his crossword puzzle. The pianist and horn player gesture at each other's music. The horn player pulls out a magnifying glass, points to a note on the pianist's music, and turns it upside down. At last they shake hands, the pianist returns to the piano, nods his head, and begins at measure 26.
2. At measure 29 he says "*now!*" again, precipitating the appearance of the string player from off stage. At first merely glancing at the pianist from behind the curtain, he begins to walk on stage at measure 33. At measure 38, he plucks his pizzicato part. At measure 48, he finishes and walks offstage.
3. At the horn cadenza at measure 57, the page turner glances at his watch, motions to the pianist, and the two of them slip quietly offstage. At measure 69, the horn player notices he's alone on stage and abruptly ends his cadenza and begins his trill. Just as abruptly, the pianist and page turner race back on stage, each dropping a hand of cards en route.
4. At measure 81, the string bass player hastens back onstage, plays from measure 84 to 94, then leaves.
5. At measure 118, the horn player again enters erroneously, the pianist again shouts "*not yet!*" But at the end of measure 120, when the pianist yells "*now,*" he enters as written.
6. At measure 128, the horn player and pianist cease playing. The last three measures are played by an offstage and out-of-sight brass quartet.
7. If the audience is unsure if the piece is over, the page turner gently begins to applaud. When the audience at last responds (they'd better!), he takes the biggest bow.