A SET OF PIECES FOR THEATRE OR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA BY CHARLES E. IVES





































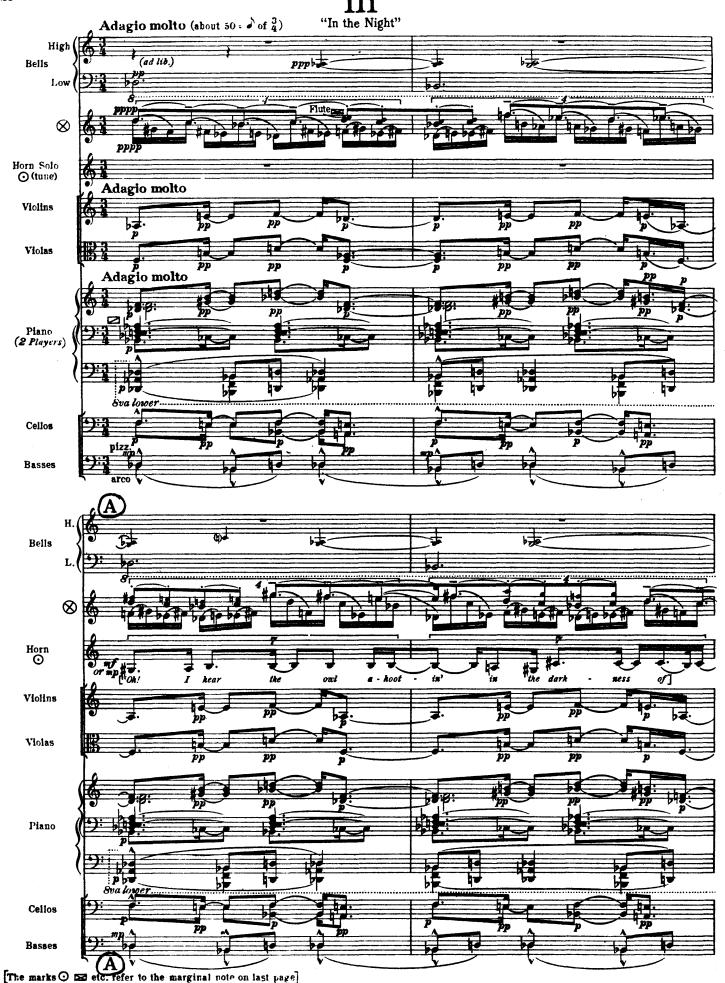






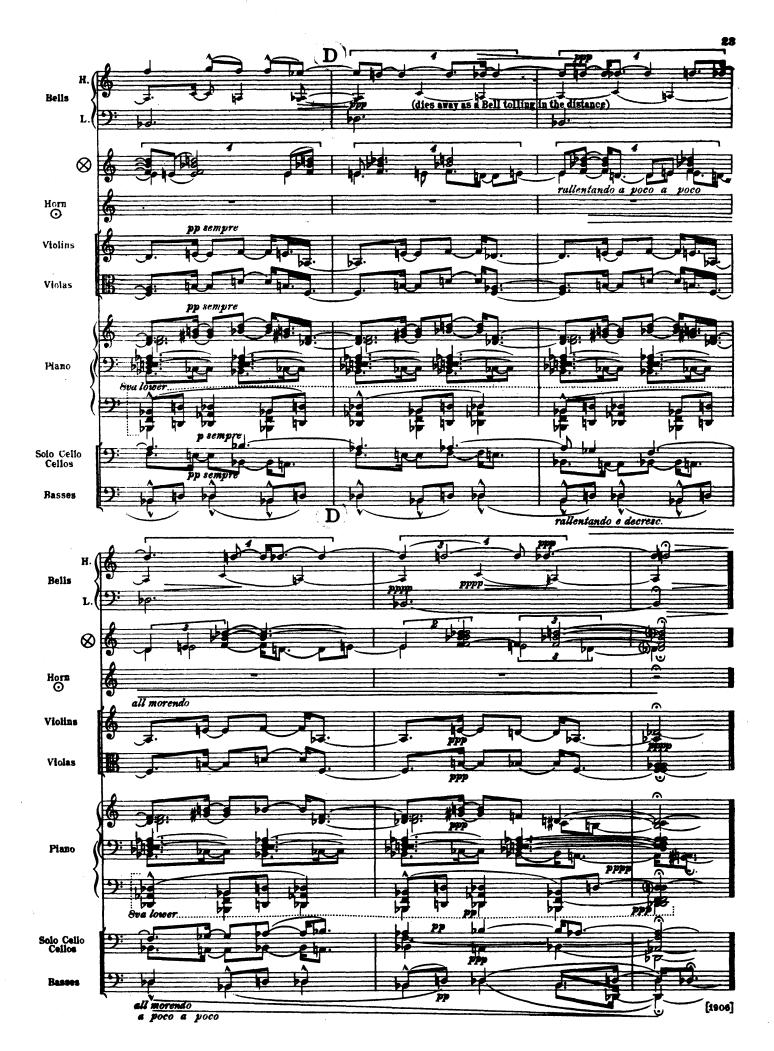


⁺ A part of the Scherzo of a 1st Piano Sonata is an arrangement from this Score for Piano alone (see enclosure)









The make-up of the average theatre orchestra of some years ago, in the towns and smaller cities, in this part of the country, was neither arbitrary nor a matter of machinery. It depended somewhat on what players and instruments happened to be around. Its size would run from four or five to fifteen or twenty, and the four or five often had to do the job of twenty without getting put out. Sometimes they would give as much support "during the rescue" as the whole town band. Its scores were subject to make-shifts, and were often written with that in mind. There were usually one or two treble Wood-Wind, a Trombone, a Cornet, sometimes a Saxophone, Strings, Piano and a Drum—often an octave of High Bells or a Xylophone. The pianist usually led—his head or any unemployed limb acting as a kind of Ictusorgan. However, a separate conductor, in these pieces, is a rather necessary member. The piano player might object to him; the other players quite probably would not, and the composer would vote for him.

In the first movement the Oboe and English Horn parts may be taken by a Flute or Clarinet and Cornet, and that of the Tympani by a small Bass Drum, a lighter stick playing the upper notes; or a long snare Drum-Corps Drum with snares muffled. The Strings (in this movement) play with little or no vibrato—a dilapidated kind of sound.

In the second movement a Trombone may play most of the Bassoon or Saxophone parts; he can get help on the low notes, if he will speak to the Piano. A Flute may play with the upper Violins from N (p. 17) on. Two Clarinets may occasionally be used. A dozen or fifteen Strings, in any event, will be enough in the first and second movements.

^{*} The words under the Solo Horn staff are not to be sung. They are from an old song (suggested in a general way in this part), which was often sung in the travelling "Minstrel Shows" popular in the '80's and '90's—a form of "theatricals" that unfortunately has almost disappeared. The source of this verse is unknown to the writer.