

The Trombonist of Hamelin

A Composition for Unaccompanied Trombone/Narrator by John Falcone (2014)

Once upon a time, and a long time ago it was, by a great river in northern Germany, there was a quaint little town called Hamelin. People there were content and hard-working, but Hamelin had a horrible problem: Rats! The wretched pests roamed every corner of the city, scaring off even the bravest cats. Something had to be done. The mayor offered a reward of three bags of gold to anyone able to rid Hamelin of this most disagreeable plague. I heard of this prize and went to Hamelin with my magical, musical contraption.

When I arrived, I announced for all to hear:

“The reward will soon be mine! By sundown, not a single rat will remain in Hamelin.”

From my pocket I drew my special metal mouthpiece and gave it a few buzzes.

buzz mouthpiece:



This turned the heads of all the inhabitants, including the rats, but what really piqued the curiosity of the townsfolk was this strange brass pipe (lift trombone for all to see).

(Person 1): It's a Remingway Rat Rifle!

(Person 2): No! It's an extra-extended-exterminator.

(Trombone): It is TROMBONE!

I brought the instrument to my lips and played a magical melody while walking towards the river. Miraculously, all the rats came streaming behind me in frantic pursuit.

A musical score for the trombone part, consisting of three staves. The first staff starts with a tempo marking of quarter note = 54 and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second staff begins with a measure number of 7 and features a series of slurs and dynamic markings. The third staff begins with a measure number of 13 and includes a *mp* dynamic marking and a *rall.* (rallentando) instruction. The score is written in bass clef with a 6/8 time signature.