

The Young 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 small 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 long metal pipe.

(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.

Lento $\text{♩} = 54$

The score consists of three staves of music in bass clef with a 6/8 time signature. The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *mf* and the instruction *misterioso*. It includes a section marked "(Ossia) - 8va bossa" with a dashed line. The second staff begins at measure 8 and includes the instruction "(as is)" and a dynamic marking of *mp*. The third staff begins at measure 15 and includes the instruction *rall.* and a fermata over the final note.

I took a small step into the water,