

**Murder Scene  
and Prelude from**

# **PSYCHO**

For  
Full Orchestra

Bernard Herrmann



## Instrumentation

Flute 1	Bb Trumpet 1
Flute 2	Bb Trumpet 2
Piccolo	Bb Trumpet 3
Oboe 1	Trombone 1
Oboe 2	Trombone 2
English Horn	Trombone 3
	Tuba
Clarinet 1	
Clarinet 2	Timpani
	Percussion 1
Bassoon 1	Xylophone
Bassoon 2	
	Harp
F Horn 1	
F Horn 2	Violin 1
F Horn 3	Violin 2
F Horn 4	Viola
	Violoncello
	Contrabass

Performance Time 2:12

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The Murder: We may surely consider the music which enters at this moment as one of the most horrifying cues ever composed. Several musicians and informed cinemagoers have referred to "bird-shrieks" and "distorted screaming bird-cries" in this connection. There are none. All we hear when Marion is killed are the shrill, stabbing thrusts of the strings in their topmost registers. Herrmann was once asked what thought was uppermost in his mind when creating this unique and hair-raising cue. He replied in one word: "terror." The extraordinary fact remains to be noted that Hitchcock's original intention was to film this scene without music. Later when the director became very dissatisfied with the finished product, Herrmann prevailed upon him to try the murder with music, and the result exceeded his wildest imaginings.

# Theme from Psycho

Bernard Hermann 1960

Slash-issimo ♩ = 120

Piccolo

Flutes

Oboes

Cor Anglais

Clarinets in Bb

Bassoons

Slash-issimo ♩ = 120

Horns in F

Trumpets in Bb

Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion

Slash-issimo ♩ = 120

Xylophone

Harp I

Slash-issimo ♩ = 120

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

4

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Hp. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

3

etc.

gliss.

ff

3

etc.

3

3

7

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Hp. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

① Vivo Psychoso ♩ = 144

10

Picc. Fl. Ob. C. A. Cl. Bsn.

① Vivo Psychoso ♩ = 144 *mf*

Hns. Tpts. Tbn. B. Tbn. Tba.

Timp. Perc.

① Vivo Psychoso ♩ = 144

10

Xyl. Hp. 1

① Vivo Psychoso ♩ = 144

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Db.

17

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Hp. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

26

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *f* *ff*

C. A. *f* *ff*

Cl. *p* *ff* *legato*

Bsn. *f* *ff*

Hns. *f* *ff*

Tpts. (muted) *ff* muted

Tbn. *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. Bass Drum *ff*

Xyl. *ff*

Hp. 1

Vln. I *p* *ff* *legato*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p* *div.*

Vc. *p* *pizz.*

Db. *p* *ff*



②

35

Picc. *mf*

Fl.

Ob. *mf*

C. A. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hns. *ff*

Tpts. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. *ff*

35

Xyl. *mf* *p*

Hp. I *mf* *p*

②

Vln. I *p* *pizz.*

Vln. II *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *mf* *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *p*

arco. *pizz.* *p*

Db. *p*

46

Picc. *mf* dolce

Fl. *mf* dolce

Ob. *mf* dolce

C. A. *mf* dolce

Cl. *mf* dolce

Bsn. *mf* dolce

Hns. *mf* muted

Tpts. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

B. Tbn. *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl. *mf*

Hp. 1 *mf*

Vln. I *mf* dolce

Vln. II *mf* dolce

Vla. *mf* dolce arco.

Vc. *mf* dolce arco.

Db. *mf* dolce

*mf* dolce

57

Picc. Fl. Ob. C. A. Cl. Bsn. Hns. Tpts. Tbn. B. Tbn. Tba. Timp. Perc. Xyl. Hp. 1 Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Db.

Musical score for page 57, featuring woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The score includes various dynamics such as *ff* (fortissimo) and performance instructions like *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *arco.* (arco).

68 ③

Picc.

Fl. *mf* 3 3

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn. *mf* ③

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. *f* ③

Xyl.

Hp. 1 *mf* ③

Vln. I *mf* 3 3

Vln. II

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db.

④

78

Picc. *mf* 3 3

Fl. *mf* 3 3

Ob. *mf* 3 3

C. A. *mf* 3 3

Cl. *mf* 3 3

Bsn. *mf* 3 3

Hns. *ff* *mf*

Tpts. *ff*

Tbn. *mf*

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. *ff* *ff* *ff*

Xyl. *ff*

Hp. 1 *mf*

Vln. I *mf* 3 3

Vln. II *mf* 3 3

Vla. *mf* pizz.

Vc. *ff* arco *mf* pizz.

Db. *ff* *mf*

④

88

Picc. *mf dolce*

Fl. *mf dolce*

Ob. *mf*

C. A. *mf*

Cl. *mf dolce*

Bsn. *mf*

Hns. *mf dolce*

Tpts. *mf* (open)

Tbn. *mf dolce*

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. Suspended Cymbal *mf*

Xyl.

Hp. 1 *mf*

Vln. I *mf dolce*

Vln. II *mf dolce*

Vla. *mf dolce*

Vc. *mf dolce arco*

Db. *mf dolce*

88

98

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Hp. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

*p*

*p*

110 **6**

Picc. *f* 3 3

Fl. *f* 3 3

Ob. *f* 3 3

C. A. *f* 3<sub>3</sub> 3<sub>3</sub>

Cl. *f* 3 3

Bsn. *f* *ff*

Hns. *ff*

Tpts. (muted) *f* muted *f* *ff* open

Tbn. *f* *f* 1st *ff*

B. Tbn. *sfz*

Tba. *sfz*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. **6**

Xyl. *f* *f* *ff*

Hp. 1 *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

**6**

Vln. I *f* 3 3 *ff*

Vln. II *f* 3 3 *ff*

Vla. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *ff*

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *ff* pizz.

Db. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *ff*



119

7

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Xyl.

Hp. 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*f* *mf* *dolce* *pizz.* *arco.* *mf dolce* *mf* *mf dolce* *mf*

Detailed description of the musical score: This page contains the musical notation for measures 119 through 125. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The woodwind section (Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) features complex passages with triplets and slurs. The brass section (Horns, Trumpets, Trombones, Tuba) provides harmonic support with various articulations. The percussion section includes Timpani and a Suspended Cymbal. The string section (Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) has intricate parts with pizzicato and arco markings. Dynamics range from fortissimo (f) to mezzo-forte (mf), with some passages marked dolce. A rehearsal mark '7' is located at the top of the page.

8

129

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

8

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

8

129

Xyl.

Hp. I

8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

140

Picc. *p* 3 3 *pp*

Fl. *p* 3 3 *pp* 3 3

Ob.

C. A.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hns.

Tpts.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

140

Xyl. *mp* *p* *pp* *pp*

Hp. 1 *p* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vln. I *p* 3 3 *pp* 3 3

Vln. II *mp* *p* *pp* pizz. *pp*

Vla. *mp* *p* *pp* pizz. *pp*

Vc. *pp* pizz.

Db. *pp* pizz.

*pp* 2'12.6"