

The Golden Apple

(A Story by Max Bolliger translated by Roseanna Hoover)

Trombone and Speaker

Roland Schwab

EMR 2010C

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The Golden Apple

The Golden Apple Tree is the centre point of the action. Every night an animal comes to the tree and sees the golden apple. They all covet it. They wait and hope it will fall off the tree. However when it does fall, they will inevitably have to fight for it. Who will end up owning it?

Max Bolliger's story is very clearly constructed and uses simple language. It was this simplicity that motivated me to set this story to music. I wanted to use a single instrument, one which had a large range and a wide palette of tone colours to represent the different characters in the story.

The result was „**The Golden Apple**“ for trombone and narrator which I composed in 1993/1994. The first performance took place in a special school for children with difficulties. The children acted the animal parts, a trombone player provided the music and I spoke the text in Swiss dialect.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the children concerned Regine, Lukas, Simon, Cyrill and Marc.

„**The Golden Apple**“ can be presented in various ways:

- As a trombone piece (advanced level), specially suited for developing a pupil's powers of expression, using the story as a basis.
- It can be used to introduce the trombone to young people with the help of the story.
- It can be acted as a musical (as at the first performance). About 7 actors are required as well as a trombone player and a narrator.
- It could also be broadcast on the radio as purely sound drama.

The tempi and dynamics are only suggestions. The participants should identify themselves with the characters and be able to imagine, for instance, how an elephant moves and in what tempo. One must not be afraid to experiment!

Roland Schwab

Roland Schwab was born in 1963 in Innertkirchen in the Berner Oberland, Switzerland. He studied trombone and theory at the Berne Conservatoire and also musical therapy and child education in the canton of Vaud and abroad. He lives in Mühlethurnen in the canton of Berne and works as a teacher and therapist in special schools.

Max Bolliger was born in 1929 in Braunwald in Switzerland. He studied as a teacher in the canton of Aargau and taught there for several years in various schools. He specialised in teaching children with problems and took over a special class in Adliswil. He worked on children's programmes for the Swiss television and was a specialist for children's books at the Zurich teachers' training college. He now lives as a freelance writer in Hütten. He has received various prizes for his children's books and has a honorary doctorate from Zurich University.

The Golden Apple

(A Story by Max Bolliger translated by Roseanna Hoover)

for Trombone and Speaker

Roland Schwab



Once upon a time, in a clearing in the middle of a forest, stood a great apple tree. It was broader and taller than any other tree – it was a giant apple tree. It had many leaves, all as big as plates. But it had just one apple, which hung on the highest branch, near to the moon and the stars. The apple was made of gold.

THE TREE WITH THE GOLDEN APPLE

♩ = 80 (geheimnissvoll, misterioso)

Musical score for 'THE TREE WITH THE GOLDEN APPLE' in bass clef, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff starts at measure 1 with a mezzo-forte (mp) dynamic. The second staff starts at measure 6 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The third staff starts at measure 13 with a piano (p) dynamic, followed by mezzo-forte (mf) and mezzo-piano (mp) dynamics. The piece ends with a 'Fine' marking.

One night a lion came through the forest to the tree. He saw the golden apple shining in the moonlight. "Am I not the king of all the animals?" said the lion. "This apple belongs to me. I will sit here under the tree and wait until the apple falls."

THE LION

♩ = 65 (majestätisch, maestoso)

Musical score for 'THE LION' in bass clef, 6/8 time. The score consists of four staves. The first staff starts at measure 1 with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff starts at measure 7. The third staff starts at measure 14. The fourth staff starts at measure 22 and ends with 'ad lib. 8va'.

On the following night an elephant came through the forest. He saw the lion under the tree, and he saw the golden apple shining in the moonlight.

“Am I not the largest of all the animals?” said the elephant. “This apple belongs to me. I will sit here under the tree and wait until the apple falls.”

THE ELEPHANT

♩ = 70 (wuchtig, pesante)

The third night a tiger came through the forest. He saw the lion and the elephant under the tree, and he saw the golden apple shining in the moonlight. “Am I not the strongest of all the animals?” said the tiger. “This apple belongs to me. I will sit here under the tree and wait until the apple falls.”

THE TIGER

♩ = 130 (kraftvoll, aggressivo)

On the fourth night a giraffe came through the forest. He saw the lion, the elephant, and the tiger, all under the tree, and he saw the golden apple shining in the moonlight. "Am I not the tallest of all the animals?" said the giraffe. "This apple belongs to me. I will sit here under the tree and wait until the apple falls."

THE GIRAFFE

♩ = 40 (schreitend, andante, tranquillo)

mp mf

6 mp mf

11 mp mf

16 mp

When the fifth night came, a fox ran through the forest. He saw the lion, the elephant, the tiger, and the giraffe, all under the tree. He saw the golden apple shining in the moonlight. "Am I not the cleverest of all the animals?" said the fox. "This apple belongs to me. I will sit here under the tree and wait until the apple falls."

THE FOX

♩ = 80 (listig, furbesco)

with mute

p mf

6 p mp

10 mf

14 p

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EMR 4676	ROSETTI, F.A.	Concerto

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