

**An Analysis of Karel Bělohoubek's  
*Devil's Galop (Pekelný Kvapík)***

by

**Amy Dunker**

[www.amydunker.com](http://www.amydunker.com)

**Instrumentation:** Piccolo  
Flute 1 – 2  
Oboe  
Eb Clarinet (Opt.)  
Bb Clarinet 1 – 3  
Bb Bass Clarinet  
Bassoon  
Eb Alto Saxophone 1 – 2  
Bb Tenor Saxophone  
Eb Baritone Saxophone  
  
Bb Trumpet 1 – 3  
Horn in F 1 – 4  
Trombone 1 – 3  
Baritone  
Tuba 1 - 2  
  
Timpani  
Percussion I: Snare Drum, Drum Set (Opt.)  
Percussion II: Cymbals, Bass Drum

**Harmonic Language:** Tonal (Bb Major with chromaticism)

**Meter:** 4/4

**Texture:** Melody and Accompaniment

**Duration:** 2 ½ Minutes

**Grade:** 5

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## Composer Bio:

**Karel Bělohoubek** (bn December 29, 1942 in Žarošice, Moravia in the Czech Republic), early in his life decided to devote himself to military music. He studied bassoon and clarinet at the Military College of Music in Roudnice nad Labem and was then active in the Garrison Band in Střebro. From 1961, he was the solo bassoonist with the Prague Garrison Band and later with the Czechoslovak Central Army Band. At the Prague Conservatory, he continued bassoon study with Professor Pivoňka and conducting with Professor Čížek. His wrote his thesis on *The Slavonic Dances of Antonin Dvořák and their Instrumentation for a Wind Orchestra*. In 1978, Karel Bělohoubek became a conductor of the Central Army Band of the Czech Republic and in 1987 its Chief Conductor.

Ever since his student years, he has been interested in instrumentation and has devoted himself intensively to improving his skill in making arrangements and composing. Of the well-known concert music he has orchestrated are the *Overture to the Bartered Bride* by Bedřich Smetana, Ravel's *Bolero*, and the *Symphonic Dances* from Bernstein's *West Side Story*. His works are frequently performed at brass band concerts in the Czech Republic as well as in other countries. As conductor, he has made many concert band recordings for the radio and recording companies. His compositions appear on programs of many world-famous wind ensembles.

While principal conductor of the Czech Central Army Band from 1987 until 1999, Bělohoubek increased its repertoire substantially and took part in its many successful tours to foreign countries. With this magnificent symphonic wind band, he performed annually at the internationally renowned *Prague Spring Music Festival* held in May. Under his guidance, ever new and different composers and harmonizations have gained acceptance into the repertoire for concert winds. Since 2000, he continues to be a freelance composer and director enjoying the opportunity of guest conducting in many countries.

## Notes:

*Devil's Galop / Pekelný kvapík* is a screamer...a barn-burner. a sizzler! Bělohoubek has created a dazzling display case that will challenge any virtuosic band. The title says it all! The piece goes like.....! Cast in an ABA format, Bělohoubek not only employs diatonic scale flurries but for contrast, beautifully blends in jazz swing elements that present a wonderful scheme of color and interest. Masterful! This Olympic 100-meter dash composition is a winner which leaves the musicians and audience breathless. Contact the publisher for a recording of this extraordinary galop with the composer conducting. "And away we go...!"

—jb

## Form:

A                   ms. 1 – 7

*(repeat ms. 2 – 5)*

B                   ms. 8 – 23

A'                   ms. 23 – 28

*(repeat ms. 24 – 26)*

Transition           ms. 29 – 30

A''                   ms. 31 – 54

*D. C. al Coda (ms. 1 – 22)*

Coda                   ms. 55

**Theme 1 (Piccolo, ms. 2 – 6):**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Piccolo part. The top staff is a grand staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It contains a melodic line with a box labeled 'A' above the first measure. The bottom staff is a single treble clef staff labeled 'Picc.' and contains a rhythmic accompaniment. Both staves begin with a dynamic marking of *f*.

**Theme 2 (Trombone I, ms. 8 – 11):**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Trombone I part. The top staff is a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat and a dynamic marking of *f*. It contains a melodic line with slurs and accents. The bottom staff is a single bass clef staff labeled 'Tbn. 1' and contains a rhythmic accompaniment.

*Dr. Amy Dunker is an Associate Professor of Music at Clarke College in Dubuque, IA, USA where she teaches composition, theory, aural skills, trumpet and directs the new music ensemble.*

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