

Svante Henryson

MÁTTAGIT

Commissioned in 2021 by The Norwegian Arctic Philharmonic

Composed in 2021

Duration 11 minutes

Instrumentation:

Yoik (or bassoon)

4 contrabasses with four strings, normal tuning

First performance:

at Nordlysfestivalen,

in Rødbankens Festsal, Tromsø, Norway

Feb 5, 2022

by Ingá-Máret Gaup Juuso, yoik,

Knut-Erik Sundquist,

Ingvild Melhus,

Jorun Perander,

and Stein Paulsen, contrabass.

"When I was asked to write a piece for yoik and four contrabasses, I started thinking about roots.

The North Sámi word "máttagit" means "down by the root", e.g. when talking about trees.

It can also be used as a metaphor for ancient traditions.

In this piece it can also refer to the Contrabass;
the low "root" notes, the instrument's traditions, or simply the wood.

I asked Ingá-Máret, who is Sámi, to supply me with a few traditional yoiks to use as starting point.

She sent me four yoiks from her own family heritage, yoiked by herself a cappella.

I ended up using all four of them.

The four yoiks are:

at letter E: **For the reindeer, an ancient yoik**

G: **Grandpa's yoik**

L: **Áhkku's yoik**

(áhkku means old woman, in this case meaning father's mother)

N: **Grandma's yoik**

The yoiks are intertwined throughout the piece, and at letter T all four are heard simultaneously.

There is also the **Contrabass Quartet's theme**, first stated at letter B.

The notated arm movements at the beginning and end
are there because I find the choreography of playing the contrabass beautiful.

Finding a yoiker for this piece can be quite a challenge.

To be able to perform Máttagit without a yoiker,
instead of using a singer, use a bassoon.

It has a timbre and a register that I feel does justice to the yoik part.

MÁTTAGIT

(Down by the root)
A fancy of four ancient yoiks

Svante Henryson

The reindeer's tempo ♩ = 68

hold hands close together,
fingers spread apart,
in front of belly

lift hands slowly

lift hands faster,
up over head

let arms drop

lift hands to
starting position
(as in bar 1)

move hands just like bassists
(left) (starting pos.)

(left-right)

Yoik
(or Bassoon)

(the special noteheads refer to arm movements)

Contrabass I

Contrabass II

Contrabass III

Contrabass IV

ppp *f* *pp* *ff* *f* *pizz.*

ppp *f* *pp* *ff* *f* *pizz.*

ppp *f* *pp* *ff* *f* *pizz.*

ppp *f* *pp* *ff* *f* *pizz.*

12 (starting pos.)

(left-right)

(both arms
simultaneously)

A

p *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.*

rit. Joik legato

48

48

rit. Joik legato

lo

pizz. *mf*

arco *p* *ppp*

p *ppp* *ppp*

E

56 A tempo

56 A tempo

lo-lo- lo...

arco *p*

pizz. *p* arco

pizz. *p* arco

p *p* arco

pizz. *p* arco

p *p* arco

63

63

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

p *f* *p*

pizz. *mf*

69 **F** (♩ = ♩)

Musical score for measures 69-76. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of five staves. The first staff is the vocal line, starting with a fermata on a whole note F. The second staff is the violin part, marked *mf* and *pizz.*, with a fermata on a whole note F. The third and fourth staves are the viola and cello parts, both marked *mf* and *pizz.*. The fifth staff is the bass line. The music is in a 3/4 time signature.

77 *lively* **G**

Musical score for measures 77-84. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of five staves. The first staff is the vocal line, marked *lively* and **G**. The second staff is the violin part, marked *mf*. The third and fourth staves are the viola and cello parts. The fifth staff is the bass line. The music is in a 3/4 time signature.

85 **H** (♩ = ♩)

Musical score for measures 85-92. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of five staves. The first staff is the vocal line, marked **H** and (♩ = ♩). The second staff is the violin part, marked *pizz.* and *mf*, with a fermata on a whole note H. The third and fourth staves are the viola and cello parts, both marked *mf*. The fifth staff is the bass line. The music is in a 2/4 time signature.

119 **L** *swinging*

pizz. *p* harm. gliss. arco *p* 4

harm. gliss. arco *p* 4

harm. gliss. *p* 4

harm. gliss. *p* 4

127 **M** *Grandma's tempo* ♩ = 162

p *pizz.* *p* *f* arco *f* 4

f *f*

138 **N** *marcato*

punta l'arco *p* 4

punta l'arco *p*

230 T *marcato*

mp — *f*

2 2-2 2 2-2 2 2-2

238

ff *sur* — 1

ff *ff* *ff* *ff*

248 U

mf *pizz.* *mf* *pizz.* *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

304 ♩ = 200 **Z** Áhkku's tempo ♩ = 58

swinging

Musical score for 'Áhkku's tempo' in 3/4 time. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is the melody, marked 'swinging'. The lower staves are for piano accompaniment. Dynamics include *pp* and *p* to *mf*. There are fermatas and accents throughout.

AA The reindeer's tempo ♩ = 68

318

legato

pizz. bak venstrehanden arco col legno batt. ord.

Musical score for 'The reindeer's tempo' in 3/4 time. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is the melody, marked 'legato'. The lower staves are for piano accompaniment, with various articulations like 'pizz.' and 'arco'. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *p*. There are accents and slurs throughout.

326 **BB**

Continuation of the musical score for 'The reindeer's tempo' in 3/4 time. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is the melody, marked 'legato'. The lower staves are for piano accompaniment, with various articulations like 'pizz.' and 'arco'. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*. There are accents and slurs throughout.

354

354

hold hands close together, fingers spread apart, in front of belly

360

move hands just like bassists (left) (starting pos.) (left-right) (starting pos.) (left-right) (starting pos.) (both arms simultaneously) (starting pos.)

EE

f *p* *mf*

f *p* *mf*

f *p* *mf*

4

mf

360

exaggerated pizz. arm movements (left)

(left-right) pizz. arco (left-right) arco (both arms simultaneously) pizz. arco

368

4

8

f *mf* *mf* *mf*

369

369

lift hands slowly

lift hands faster, up over head

lift hands further, as high as possible

let arms drop

rit.

III V III V IV (use tuning peg)

ppp *f* *pp* *ff*

ppp *f* *pp* *ff*

ppp *f* *pp* *ff*

ppp *f* *pp* *ff*

EE

Bartopizz exactly when yoiker's arms drop