Ghosts, Goblins, Witches & Wizards

Darrol Barry

Ghosts opens with a Solo Horn introducing the first theme. The tempo is quite slow and the music mysterious. A second theme is heard on Solo Cornets marked 'doloroso' which is in turn taken up by the Euphoniums & Baritones. Horns, Basses & Timpani usher in a more agitated central section which in turn gives way to music from the opening, but only for a short while as the faster agitated music returns. The movement ends as it started but the first theme is heard quietly in 4 octaves, however the Cornets and Trombones shatter the mood with a loud shot chord.

Goblins. The ghost of Grieg pervades the movement with its quirky harmony and mood. Although mostly quiet the music does have its imposing moments especially in the central section.

Witches. A swirling satanic scherzo in which the Basses try to avoid playing a typical bass line by avoiding the first beat for most of the time. After a short, loud introduction the main theme is heard first on Horns, supported by chattering Cornets and then taken up by the full Band. A central section features the Cornet back row with interjections from Trombones & Basses.

Wizards. These are not the lovable, bumbling wizards of Disney cartoons but rather the power behind the throne, with their mysterious incantations and dramatic explosive spells. The Trombones feature quite heavily on the main driving theme and its counter melody. A short fugato section attempts to portray the wizard with his fantastic spells and potions.