

Claus Kühnl

**The story about the dish and about the spoon
(1993/94/95/97)**

Comic Opera
from the children's book of the same title by Michael Ende
Libretto by the Composer

Casting

Pantoffel (king of the left kingdom)	_____	bass
Pantine (queen of the left kingdom)	_____	mezzo-soprano
Saffian (prince)	_____	alto (a child)
Balduin Bückling (minister of the inferior and foreign minister alike)	_____	tenor (buffo)
Kamuffel (king of the right kingdom)	_____	baritone
Kamelle (queen of the right kingdom)	_____	soprano
Praline (princesse)	_____	soprano (a child)
Serpentine Irrwisch (wicked fairy)	_____	coloratura soprano

Childrens chorus

4 actors:

- (1) Klaus Klau (a thief) / 1st courier
- (2) Leberecht Langfinger (a thief) / 2nd courier
- (3/4) doubles of the wicked fairy

Bit players:

- 4 guards
- party-guests
- 6 postmen
- 2 royal armies with brass-bands

Narrator (off-screen)

Mixed chorus (off-screen or tape)

Scoring

3 concert flutes (plus piccolos) / 1 oboe / 2 clarinets (plus bass-clar.) / 1 bassoon (plus cbss.)

2 trumpets (mutes: cup and harmon) / 2 french horns (mutes) / 2 trombones (mutes: cup, harmon and straight) / 1 tuba (cb.)

Percussion (7 players minimum):

I.

xylophone (F₄—C₈), 1 cymbal, 1 pair maracas, 1 triangle.

II.

marimbaphone (C₃—C₇).

III.

vibraphone (F₃—F₆), 1 guero, 1 triangle.

IV.

glockenspiel (A₅—E₈), sheets of paper, 1 big tam-tam, 1 flexatone.

V.

1 snare-drum, 4 tom-toms, 3 cymbals, 1 cymbal chinese, tubular bells (C₄—F₅), 1 triangle, 1 pair maracas, 1 whip, 1 pasteboard rattle, 1 guero, 1 tam-tam (from IV. player), 1 ocean-drum.

VI.

1 snare-drum, 2 tom-toms, 2 congas, 5 temple-blocks, 1 cymbal, 1 ratchet, 1 siren, 1 ocean-drum, 1 triangle, 1 flexatone, 1 big tam-tam, 1 crotale (C₈).

VII.

crotales (C₇—C₈), 1 swanee flute, 1 big bass-drum, 1 cymbals pair, 1 flexatone, 3 cymbals, 1 cymbal chinese (from V. player), Tam-Tam and ocean-drum (from VI. player), 1 whip.

2 brass-bands with percussion (snare- and bass-drums): stage music or played by tape!

1 harp / 1 celesta (C₃—C₈) / 1 keyboard (sampler) / tape

Strings (soloistic players. Each has to use a Pick-up!):

3 violins / 1 viola / 2 violoncellos / 1 double bass (with 5th string tuned in C).