

THE

CULLEN SKINK RAG

ANTHONY LABOUNTY

THE CULLEN SKINK RAG - ANTHONY LABOUNTY

Program Notes from the Composer:

My family and I recently visited Scotland, where a chance lunchtime stop became the inspiration for this work. After a day of touring, we arrived in the town of Aberlour and settled into the restaurant of the historic Aberlour Hotel, built in 1812. While browsing the menu, one item immediately caught my eye: *Cullen Skink*. Curious, I asked our waitress about it and learned that this traditional Scottish dish is a cream-based seafood chowder made with smoked haddock caught off the Scottish coast. The name itself tells a story—*skink* is a slang term for a simple meal improvised from ingredients on hand, while *Cullen* refers to the northeastern coastal town where the chowder originated.

The story grew even richer when the hotel's managing director, Ms. Kellie Spooner, overheard our conversation and introduced herself. We soon discovered that she was the 2024 Cullen Skink Champion, a distinction proudly confirmed by a quick online search that revealed her photo and championship award. Spooner also earned the 2026 "People's Choice" Award at the annual culinary competition. To mark the moment, Ms. Spooner shared a celebratory poem of the Skink, *Legend-Ladlers of the Skink*, a playful and affectionate tribute to the dish and to the North East of Scotland, where this hearty chowder has been perfected and enjoyed.

Legend-Ladlers of The Skink

*In the North East of Scotland, by the Moray Firth's blink, lies the famous wee town where they perfected the Skink,
With tatties and smoked haddock all cosy in tow, in kitchens of fishing houses all in a row,
With onions and cream, and a pinch of some cheer, this hearty old classic brings warmth year to year,
So pull up a chair when the weather turns cool, let the North East of Scotland ladle your bowl full,
From Buckie to Banff, they all try their hand, attempting the skink in towns 'cross the land,
But try as they might, with their pots and their hope, no one beats Aberlour Hotel's glorious scope!
So when you're in Cullen, or further afield, ask for the Skink – see legends revealed,
Raise a spoon to the North East and Kellie's fine feat, for Cullen Skink here no other can beat!*

The Cullen Skink Rag is an original work for wind band that pays musical homage to this beloved Scottish culinary tradition—or, perhaps more fittingly, this *Cullen-ary* delight. Lively rhythms, warm sonorities, and good-natured humor reflect both the comforting richness of the chowder and the spirited pride of the communities that celebrate it. In music as in cuisine, this piece raises a spoon to tradition, craftsmanship, and the joy of discovering something unforgettable in an unexpected place.

- Anthony LaBounty

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INSTRUMENTATION:

Piccolo
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Bb Clarinet 1
Bb Clarinet 2
Bb Clarinet 3
Bass Clarinet
Eb Alto Saxophone 1
Eb Alto Saxophone 2
Bb Tenor Saxophone
Eb Baritone Saxophone
Horn in F 1
Horn in F 2
Horn in F 3
Horn in F 4
Bb Trumpet 1
Bb Trumpet 2
Bb Trumpet 3
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Euphonium [bass clef]
Tuba
Double Bass [optional but recommended]
Percussion 1 - Glockenspiel
Percussion 2 - Sandpaper Blocks, Ratchet, Woodblocks
Percussion 3 – Triangle, 2 Cowbells (high pitch & low pitch)
Percussion 4 – Spoons, Crash Cymbals
Percussion 5 - Snare Drum
Percussion 6 – Bass Drum

The Cullen Skink Rag

Anthony LaBounty

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Piccolo

Flute 1.2

Oboe 1.2

Bassoon 1.2

Clarinet in Bb 1

Clarinet in Bb 2.3

Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone 1.2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Horn in F 1.3

Horn in F 2.4

Trumpet in Bb 1

Trumpet in Bb 2.3

Trombone 1.2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Double Bass

Glockenspiel

Sandpaper Blocks, Ratchet, Woodblocks

Triangle, 2 Cowbells (high & low)

Spoons & Crash Cymbals

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

The Cullen Skink Rag

6

Picc. *gliss.*

Fl. 1.2 *one* *gliss.*

Ob. 1.2 *one* *gliss.*

Bsn 1.2 *a 2* *f* *3*

Cl. in B♭ 1 *one* *gliss.*

Cl. in B♭ 2.3 *a 2* *f*

B. Cl. *one* *gliss.*

A. Sax. 1.2 *one* *gliss.*

T. Sax. *f* *3*

Bar. Sax. *f* *3*

Hn in F 1.3 *mf*

Hn in F 2.4 *mf* *mp*

Tpt in B♭ 1 *mf*

Tpt in B♭ 2.3 *mf*

Tbn. 1.2 *mf*

Bass Tbn. *mp* *Bass Tbn.*

Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tba *pizz.* *mp*

D. B. *mf* *mp*

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

[illegible]

[illegible]

The Cullen Skink Rag

5

22

Picc.

Fl. 1.2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1.2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2

Cl. in B♭ 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2
4

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2.3

Tbn. 1
2

Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

cresc.

a 2

Hn 1

f

Hn 3

Ban 1 8va

mf

1. solo

f

Open

mf 3 3

mf

mf

2.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

The Cullen Skink Rag

28 31

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1 2 *mf*

Ob. 1 2 *mf*

Bsn. 1.2 *mf*

Cl. in B♭ 1 *mf*

Cl. in B♭ 2.3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2.3

Tbn. 1.2

Bass Tbn. *Tbn. 2. Bass Tbn.*

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls *to Ratchet*

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym. *Spoons*

Sn. Dr. *f*

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

7

34

Picc. *cresc.*

Fl. 1 *cresc.*
2

Ob. 1 *cresc.*
2

Bsn 1 *cresc.*
2

Cl. in B♭ 1 *cresc.*
2

Cl. in B♭ 2 *cresc.*
3

B. Cl. *cresc.*

A. Sax. 1 *cresc.*
2 *cresc.*

T. Sax. *cresc.*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *cresc.*

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2.3

Tbn. 1.2
Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

39

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn. 1
2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2
3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2.3

Tbn. 1.2
Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

mp

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdblcks

Tri., 2 Cwblls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

9

43

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2
3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2.3

Tbn. 1.2
Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdbclcks

Tri., 2 Cwblls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

47

cresc.

f

mf

(choke)

f

to C.C.

Crash Cymbals

w/ Sticks

mf

3

Rachet

The Cullen Skink Rag

49

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in B $\flat$ 1

Cl. in B $\flat$ 2
3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B $\flat$ 1

Tpt in B $\flat$ 2.3

Tbn. 1.2
Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Solo

f

1.2.

dim.

Bass Tbn.

dim.

dim.

dim.

to two (2) woodblocks
(high & low)

mf

(choke)

mf

mf

3

3

3

3

The Cullen Skink Rag

11

55

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn. 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1, 3
2, 4

Tpt in Bb 1
2, 3

Tbn. 1
2

Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba. one player

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

63

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1 *f*
2

Ob. 1 *f*
2

Bsn 1 *f*
2

Cl. in B♭ 1 *f*

Cl. in B♭ 2 *f*
3

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1.2 *f*
a 2

T. Sax. *f*

Bar. Sax. *f*

Hn in F 1 *f*
3

Hn in F 2.4 *f*
a 2

Tpt in B♭ 1 *f*

Tpt in B♭ 2 *f*
3

Tbn. 1 *f*
2

Bass Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba *f*
Tutti

D. B. *f*

Glock. *f*

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls *f*
to 2 Cowbells (high & low)

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr. *f*
mf

B. Dr. *f*
mf

TRIO

71

Picc.

Fl. 1

2

Ob. 1

2

Bsn 1

2

Cl. in B♭ 1

2

3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1

3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B♭ 1

2

3

Tbn. 1

2

Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

mf *f* *mp* *mf*

a 2 *a 2* *a 2*

a 2 *a 2*

Tba Sva

Solo *On the rim*

The Cullen Skink Rag

77

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in B $\flat$ 1

Cl. in B $\flat$ 2.3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B $\flat$ 1

Tpt in B $\flat$ 2
3

Tbn. 1
2

Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdblcks

Tri., 2 Cwblls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

80

Picc.

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in B♭ 1

Cl. in B♭ 2.3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in B♭ 1

Tpt in B♭ 2
3

Tbn. 1
2

Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdbleks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

89 91

Picc. *f* *mp*

Fl. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

Ob. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

Bsn. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ 1 *f* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ 2.3 *f* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *mp*

A. Sax. 1 *a 2* *f* *a 2* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

T. Sax. *f* *mp*

Bar. Sax. *f* *mp*

Hn in F 1 *f* *mp*

3 *f* *mp*

Hn in F 2 *f* *mp*

Hn in F 4 *f* *mp*

Tpt in B♭ 1 *f* *mp*

Tpt in B♭ 2 *f* *mp*

3 *f* *mp*

Tbn. 1 *f* *mp*

2 *f* *mp*

Bass Tbn. *f* *mp*

Euph. *f* *mp*

Tba *f* *mp*

D. B. *f* *mp*

Glock. *f* *mp*

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls *Solo* *Tutti* *f* *mp*

Tri., 2 Cwbls *f* *mp*

Spns & Cr. Cym. *Solo (on head)* *Tutti (on head)*

Sn. Dr. *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

B. Dr. *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

7th pos. *gliss.*

3rd pos.

2 Cowbells (high & low)

Bar. Sax. 8ba

Bar. Sax.

97

Picc. *mf* *cresc.*

Fl. 1. 2 *a 2* *mf* *cresc.*

Ob. 1 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Bsn 1 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Cl. in B♭ 1 *mf* *cresc.*

Cl. in B♭ 2.3 *a 2* *mf* *cresc.*

B. Cl. *mf* *cresc.*

A. Sax. 1. 2 *a 2* *mf* *cresc.* *a 2*

T. Sax. *mf* *cresc.*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *cresc.*

Hn in F 1.3 *a 2* *mf* *cresc.*

Hn in F 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Hn in F 4 *mf* *cresc.*

Tpt in B♭ 1 *mf* *cresc.*

Tpt in B♭ 2.3 *a 2* *mf* *cresc.*

Tbn. 1. 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Bass Tbn. *mf* *cresc.*

Euph. *mf* *cresc.*

Tba *mf* *cresc.*

D. B. *mf* *cresc.*

Glock. *mf*

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls *mf* *cresc.*

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr. *mf* *cresc.*

B. Dr. *mf* *cresc.*

The Cullen Skink Rag

105

Picc.

Fl. 1.2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2.3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2.3

Tbn. 1.2
Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

The Cullen Skink Rag

III

Picc.

Fl. 1.2

Ob. 1.2

Bsn ¹/₂

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb ²/₃

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt in Bb 1

Tpt in Bb 2.3

Tbn. 1.2
Bass Tbn.

Euph.

Tba

D. B.

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdblcks

Tri., 2 Cwblls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

(choke)