

THE

CULLEN SKINK RAG

FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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 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. - Anthony LaBounty

THE CULLEN SKINK RAG – ANTHONY LABOUNTY

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA INSTRUMENTATION:

Piccolo

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Bb Clarinet 1

Bb Clarinet 2

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Horn in F 3

Horn in F 4

C Trumpet 1

C Trumpet 2

C Trumpet 3

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Tuba

Double Bass

Percussion 1 - Glockenspiel

Percussion 2 - Sandpaper Blocks, Ratchet, Woodblocks

Percussion 3 – Triangle, 2 Cowbells (high pitch & low pitch)

Percussion 4 – Spoons (two table-sized soup spoons), Crash Cymbals

Percussion 5 - Snare Drum

Percussion 6 – Bass Drum

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

The Cullen Skink Rag

6

Fl. 1.2 one *gliss.*

Ob. 1.2 one 1. *gliss.*

Bsn. 1.2 3

Cl. in B \flat 1.2 one 1. *gliss.*

Hn in F 1.3 *mf* 2.

Hn in F 2.4 *mf* *mp*

Tpt 1 in C *mf*

Tpt 2 in C *mf*

Tpt 3 in C *mf*

Tbn. 1.2 *mf*

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdblks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I II

Vla *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

D. B. *mf* *mp*

The Cullen Skink Rag

16

19

f

f

a 2

1. *f*

2. *f*

end solo

end solo

Glock. *mf*

Sandpaper Blocks *f*

to Sticks

*f*³

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1.2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2
4

Tpt 1 in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdblks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

The Cullen Skink Rag

22 *cresc.*

Fl. 1.2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn. 1.2 *a 2*
f

Cl. in B \flat 1
2

Hn in F 1.3 *f*

Hn in F 2
4 *f*

Tpt 1 in C *Open*
mf 3

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C *mf* 3

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdblcks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II *mf* II.

Vla *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D. B. *mf*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'The Cullen Skink Rag' features a variety of instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute 1.2, Oboe 1 and 2, Bassoon 1.2 (with a second part marked 'a 2'), and Clarinet in B-flat 1 and 2. The brass section consists of Horns in F 1.3 and 2/4, Trumpets 1, 2, and 3 in C (with a triplet marked '3' and 'mf'), and Trombones 1 and 2. Percussion includes Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Bass Drums, and a set of Snare Drums, Triangles, and Cowbells. The string section includes Violins I and II (with a second part marked 'II.'), Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *cresc.*, as well as performance instructions like 'Open' and 'II.'. The music is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

The Cullen Skink Rag

29

31

mf

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1.2

Cl. in B \flat 1.2

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdblks

Tri., 2 Cwblks

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

solo to Ratchet

Spoons

f

3 3

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'The Cullen Skink Rag'. The page is numbered '6' in the top left corner. The title 'The Cullen Skink Rag' is centered at the top. The score begins at measure 29, with a rehearsal mark at measure 31. The instrumentation includes Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Bassoon (1 and 2), Clarinet in B-flat (1 and 2), Horns in F (1, 2, 3 and 2, 3, 4), Trumpets (1, 2, and 3 in C), Trombones (1 and 2), Tuba, Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Bass Drums, Triangles and Cowbells, Spoons and Cymbals, Violins (I and II), Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The woodwind and string parts are mostly silent, with some woodwinds playing a melodic line starting at measure 31. The percussion parts include a 'solo to Ratchet' for Snare Drums, Triangles, and Cowbells, and a 'Spoons' part for Spoons and Cymbals starting at measure 31. The 'Spoons' part features a dynamic marking of *f* and includes triplet rhythms. The woodwind parts are marked *mf*. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.

The Cullen Skink Rag

35

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

cresc.

mp

mf

3.

4.

3

3

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'The Cullen Skink Rag', page 7. The score is for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet in Bb) has a melodic line starting at measure 35, marked with a 'cresc.' (crescendo) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The brass section includes Horns in F (1 and 2.4), Trumpets in C (1, 2, 3), Trombones (1 and 2), and Tuba. The percussion section includes Glockenspiel, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, and Triangles/2 Cowbells. The string section (Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) is present but has no notation on this page. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The woodwind parts have a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics. The brass parts are mostly rests, with some activity in the Horn 2.4 part starting at measure 40. The percussion parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment, with the Triangles/Cowbells playing a steady eighth-note pattern.

The Cullen Skink Rag

41

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
3

Hn in F 2
4

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.
mp

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbleks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

3.

4.

3

3

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet) and horn section (Horn in F) are active in the first measure, with the Clarinet and Horn in F parts featuring triplets. The percussion section includes a Glockenspiel playing a rhythmic pattern marked *mp*, and a Snare Drum part with triplet markings. The string section (Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass) is present but has no notes in this measure.

The Cullen Skink Rag

Musical score for measures 43-50 of 'The Cullen Skink Rag'. The score includes parts for Flute (1, 2), Oboe (1, 2), Bassoon (1, 2), Clarinet in Bb (1, 2), Horn in F (1, 2, 3, 4), Trumpet (1, 2, 3 in C), Trombone (1, 2), Tuba, Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Bass Drums, and Strings. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 43 is marked with a box containing the number 47. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. Performance instructions include 'cresc.', '(choke)', 'to C.C.', 'Crash Cymbals', and 'w/ Sticks'. A 'Racet' instruction is present at the end of the section.

The Cullen Skink Rag

49

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
3

Hn in F 2
4

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1, 2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbcls

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

1. Solo

f

4.

dim.

dim.

to two (2)
woodblocks
(high & low)

mf

(choke)

mf

mf

f

dim.

f

dim.

The Cullen Skink Rag

55

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
3

Hn in F 2
4

Tpt 1 in C
Solo Harmon w/ Stem
f

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2
1. Solo St. Mute
f
one player

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Rcht, Wdblks
2 Woodblocks (high & low)
mf

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I
II

Vla

Vc.
Solo
f

D. B.
Tha Sva

end solo
miss

end solo

End Solo

The Cullen Skink Rag

77

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in B \flat 1.2

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbleks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I.II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

a 2

a 2

a 2

a 2

unis.

The Cullen Skink Rag

80

Fl. 1
2

Ob. 1
2

Bsn 1
2

Cl. in B \flat 1.2

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4
a 2

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1
2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdblks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I.II
unis.

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'The Cullen Skink Rag', page 15. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet in B-flat), horns (Horn in F), trumpets (Trumpet 1 in C, Trumpets 2 and 3 in C), trombones (Trombone 1 and 2, Trombone), Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Bass Drums, Triangles and Cowbells, Snare and Crash Cymbals, Violins I and II (marked 'unis.'), Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The music is in 2/4 time and features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The page number '80' is written at the top left of the first staff.

The Cullen Skink Rag

97 *a 2*

Fl. 1.2 *mf* *cresc.*

Ob. 1 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Bsn 1 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Cl. in Bb 1.2 *a 2* *mf* *cresc.*

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

Hn in F 2 *mf* *cresc.*

Hn in F 4 *mf* *cresc.*

Tpt 1 in C *mf* *cresc.*

Tpt 2 in C *a 2* *mf* *cresc.*

Tpt 3 in C *mf* *cresc.*

Tbn. 1.2 *mf* *cresc.*

Tba *mf* *cresc.*

Glock. *mf*

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

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym. *mf* *cresc.*

Sn. Dr. *mf* *cresc.*

B. Dr. *mf*

Vln I.II *mf* *cresc.*

Vla *mf* *cresc.*

Vc. *mf* *cresc.*

D. B. *mf* *cresc.*

The Cullen Skink Rag

III

Fl. 1.2

Ob. 1.2

Bsn. 1.2

Cl. in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1.3

Hn in F 2.4

Tpt 1
in C

Tpt 2 in C
Tpt 3 in C

Tbn. 1.2

Tba

Glock.

Sndpr Blks, Reht, Wdbleks

Tri., 2 Cwbls

Spns & Cr. Cym.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Vln I.II

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

a 2

(choke)

unis.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'The Cullen Skink Rag'. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Flute 1.2, Oboe 1.2, Bassoon 1.2, Clarinet in Bb 1 and 2, Horn in F 1.3 and 2.4, Trumpet 1 in C, Trumpets 2 and 3 in C, Trombone 1.2, Tuba, Glockenspiel, Snare Drums, Bass Drums, Snare and Crash Cymbals, Violin I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (e.g., *III*, *unis.*), articulation (e.g., *a 2*, *(choke)*), and performance instructions. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The page number 19 is in the top right corner.