

Princess Paliné

for Narrator and Chamber Ensemble

Story & Music

by

Karen Amrhein

Princess Paliné

and the Seven Words

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet (B \flat)

Piano

Percussion (1 Player or Pianist): Suspended Cymbal, Triangle

Narrator

Cello

Score is at concert pitch

The story of Princess Paliné came in 2005 as I worked on my novella *Avandalyn*. At various points in *Avandalyn*, the soldier Barack offers tales to his young charge, Helen, beginning with "...the tale of Princess Paliné, who learned the seven words that stay a dragon's hunger and cool its fires, thus saving her land from the great fire serpent Malinon, when all the paladins proved luckless...." Helen nods enthusiastically at the prospect, yet rather than recount the story, Barack frowns teasingly:

"No, I think not. Tis ill done to speak of fiery dragons near an open hearth."

Instead, he offers her *The Feeding Groves*. However, I myself grew so intrigued by Barack's tantalizing phrase about the princess and the seven words that, needing to find out what the seven words were, I wrote the story and included it in the appendix of *Avandalyn*. At the end of August of 2007 I revisited the story, revised it slightly, and wrote the music for this narration piece.

Score in C
Total Timing: 25 Minutes
Music Timing: 14 Minutes

to Stephen
Princess Paliné
for Narrator and Chamber Ensemble

Karen Amrhein (ASCAP)

NARRATOR: The tale of Princess Paliné, who learned the seven words that stay a dragon's hunger and cool its fires, thus saving her land from the great fire serpent Malinon, when all the knights and paladins proved luckless.

Gardens ♩ = 200

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet (B \flat)

Piano

Percussion

Narrator

Cello

to Triangle

L.H. pizz.

(arco)

f

mf

p

mf

p

f

p

pp

The Princess Paliné possessed the loveliest garden in the loveliest country in all the world.

7 (A)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr.

Vc.

mp

p

p subito

Now it is true that there were many gardens throughout the realm, for the people of this land loved nothing more than cultivating and keeping gardens. It is also true

B

13

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr.

Vc.

pp *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

L.H. pizz. (arco)

19

molto rit...... C $\text{♩} = 144$

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr.

Vc.

mp espress. *p* *p* *p* *p*

38

(G.P.)

E *The Tutor* ♩ = 168

Fl.

Narr. One afternoon, as she reclined upon her couch in the loveliest glade within her garden, munching a luscious apple, the Princess Paliné's tutor paid her a visit. A very old and very wise fellow was this tutor, as it is fitting he should be. He had seen many things in his many days,

Vc.

44

F

Pno.

Narr. and always he mused at great length on what he saw before opening his mouth and giving voice to his thoughts. That is why he was considered, by all who consider such matters, the wisest man in all the land,

Vc.

51

G

Pno.

Perc.

Narr. and why His Majesty the King had requested this fellow's services as tutor to the Princess. The tutor came to stand beside the Princess, and smiled.

Vc.

57

H

Pno.

Narr. He had plucked an apple for himself from one of the many apple trees in the garden, and it pleased him to munch his apple, finishing it down to the seeds, before he uttered a word to the Princess Paliné.

Vc.

64

I ♩ = 88

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *mp* solo 3 3

Pno.

Perc.

Narr. The word he uttered, was: "Yum." The Princess knit her brow and thought very hard on what this might mean.

Vc. (*pizz.*) *p*

71

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *p*

Pno.

Perc.

Narr. For, her tutor being the wisest of tutors, she knew very well that his words were as sweet as the apples in her garden; and just as apples fall from trees, his words fell from his lips only when perfectly ripe. However, after much consideration, she shrugged.

Vc.

118 (M) *Three Words*
Slow ♩ = 88

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Pno.

Perc. to Susp. Cymbal

Narr. ♩ ♩ And so, the Princess Paliné finally began her search for these precious syllables. She inquired of the greatest minds in all the land: astronomers and astrologers, alchemists and architects, sages and sorcerers.

Vc. arco *p*

123 (N)

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Pno.

Perc. Susp. Cymbal (Wood Stick on Rim) *p* (Mallet Head) *pp* *mp*

Narr. ♩ They gathered together in a great and solemn council and argued for nine hours before offering her three words: perambulation, concupiscence, and angioplasty. The Princess wrote these down carefully

Vc. *p*

128 (G.P.)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr. (she needed some help with the spelling), and then turned her thoughts to whom she should ask next. Her tutor seemed a wise choice....

Vc.

131 (O) Croquet ♩ = 88

Pno.

Narr. The royal tutor stood upon the neatly trimmed lawn outside his cottage, playing croquet when the Princess Paliné arrived. He gave his ball a good smack and the ball shot from his mallet like a comet,

Vc.

137

Pno.

Narr. missing every wicket and stake within twenty leagues. The ball rolled into the woods and vanished, yet the old man seemed unfazed, for he turned and bowed to the Princess without missing a beat.

Vc.

157 **Q** *Traveling* ♩ = 72

Fl.
 Ob.
 Cl.
 Perc.
 Narr.
 Vc.

Flute: *solo*
 Oboe: *solo*
 Clarinet: *solo*
 Percussion: *to Triangle*
 Violoncello: *mp*

164 **R**

Fl.
 Ob.
 Cl.
 Perc.
 Narr.
 Vc.

Flute: *mf*
 Oboe: *pp*
 Clarinet: *p*
 Percussion: *Triangle*
 Violoncello: *arco*
 Narration: *p*

The next morning, the Princess Paliné set out to find the dragon Malinon. Word of mouth indicated that the drake had moved his nest to the south, where orchards and flocks aplenty were to be found.

171 **S**

Fl.
 Ob.
 Cl.
 Perc.
 Narr.
 Vc.

Flute: *mp*
 Oboe: *mp*
 Clarinet: *p*
 Percussion: *Triangle*
 Violoncello: *p*

And so her Highness turned her steps southward, leading her pony by the reins. She traveled without escort, for the land was at peace (apart from the terrible dragon) and she felt it high time she had a look at it.

177

Fl. *p* *mp* *solo*

Ob. *mp espress.* *p* *mp* *solo*

Cl. *mp solo* *p*

Pno. *p*

Perc.

Narr. □ The Princess paused to refresh herself in wayside inns and hamlets along her route, and it surprised her to see that many of her subjects tended gardens of their own, and that these rivaled her Highness's in breadth and beauty. It pleased the Princess

Vc. *p*

185

Fl. *p*

Ob. *mp* *p* *solo* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *p*

Pno. *mp* *p*

Perc.

Narr. □ that this should be so, for rather than feeling rancor and jealousy at her subjects' prosperity, she understood that their prosperity was her own, and she commended her people and entreated them to continue cultivating their gardens.

Vc. *pizz.* *mp*

209 (W) Dragon ♩ = 72

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *mp* *p* *p* *pp* *p* *p* *pp*

Perc. to Susp. Cymbal

Narr. Princess Paliné had seen many things by the time she approached the dragon's lair — made evident by the reddish glow and sinuous plume of smoke that issued from the old cave, seated amidst a burnt and desolate landscape. The glow that shimmered from the mouth of the lair reminded the Princess of the blacksmith's shop.

Vc. *arco* *gliss.* *p* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp* *pp*

215 (X)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *p* *pp* *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *mp* *mp* *p*

Perc.

Narr. She stood a respectful and discreet distance from the cave, wondering what the proper way to pay a call on a dragon might be — for she had been taught how to approach a king and queen, how to acknowledge a duke, take leave of a baroness, and greet an ambassador;

Vc. *p* *mp* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *pp*

220

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr. but her education had failed her as regards mythical beasts. She could no more curtsy for a unicorn than she could greet a griffin. If she smiled at a sea serpent, would that be rude? These weighty matters had been her concern for only a few moments, however, when a blast of warm air, a waxing of light from the cave,

Vc.

226

Fl.

Ob.

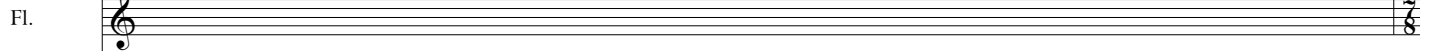
Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr. and the sound of a great bulk being hauled over gems and gold and all his hoarded treasure, informed the Princess Paliné that the dragon drew nigh.

Vc.



Narr.

Some time passed before the creature could collect himself, by which time the Princess's trepidation had been succeeded by irritation. She sat on the ground, her arms crossed, shaking her head at the dragon.

"I am to understand that those are not the required words," she said curtly.

"No... they are not," the dragon croaked. He sighed deeply. "That is the worst collection of words I have ever heard. And, believe me, I've heard some corkers!"

The princess rose to her feet, saying with enormous dignity, "There is no call for insults."

The dragon grew suddenly quiet.

"The greatest minds in all the land gave me those words," the Princess observed.

The dragon inclined its head toward Princess Paliné and said, "You are correct. I have every right to eat you, but no right to insult you. In token of apology — and gratitude for the laughter you've brought to an old worm's heart — I offer you a second try. A championship round, shall we say?"

The Princess pursed her lips and thought to herself: If the wisest heads in all the realm had failed, how could she succeed? None of the words she had ever learned seemed special enough.

Then she suddenly knew the seven words that stay a dragon's hunger and cool its fires.

"Please go away mister fire breathing dragon," she whispered.

"Eh, what was that?" asked the serpent, its eyes narrowing unpleasantly.

"Please go away mister fire breathing dragon!" she laughed aloud.

The worm uncoiled itself, its wings unfurling and beating the air. Faster and faster they turned, until the dragon rose high above the cave. The force of this gale he created even dispelled the layer of clouds that had shrouded the vicinity for many a day. The worm paused, poised at a height thrice the span of a dozen men standing upon one another's shoulders. And then it swooped toward the ground, halting just inches from the Princess, who blinked in the newly liberated sunlight.

"Never forget those seven words," the dragon whispered. "For on the day you forget, I will return." And, with a rush of wings, it was gone.



CC Seven Words ♩ = 200

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Narr.

Vc.

The Princess Paliné never did forget the seven words that stay a dragon's hunger and cool its fires.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *mp* *p* *p subito*

Perc.

Narr. She returned to her beloved garden and the realm prospered. In time, she became Queen in her own right, and found an eminently suitable husband to be King.

Vc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *pp* *mp*

Perc.

Narr. She commanded the royal sign maker to engrave the seven words above the palace gate,

Vc. *pp* *mp* L.H. pizz. (arco)