

The Sorcerer's Apprentice

Paul Dukas

The Facts

The name of the sorcerer in the film *Fantasia* is *Yen Sid*, which is 'Disney' backwards.

The recording used for the soundtrack of *Fantasia* was the first use of stereophonic sound in a film.

The word *scherzo*, used in the subtitle of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, means 'joke' in Italian.

Dukas wrote another version of the piece for two pianos.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is a symphonic poem by Paul Dukas.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice was made famous in 1940 when Walt Disney used the music for the film *Fantasia*.

Dukas based his *Sorcerer's Apprentice* on a poem called *Der Zauberlehrling*, written by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1797.

The piece lasts approximately ten minutes.

It was written in 1897 and premiered in Paris on 18 May of the same year.

The work is subtitled '*Scherzo after a ballad by Goethe*'.

The Sorcerer's Apprentice is an example of programme music and closely follows the events in Goethe's poem.

The piece is based on the story of a magician's apprentice who tries out the magic he has learned with some disastrous consequences.

The work involves a contrabassoon and a highly demanding part for glockenspiel.

THE CREATION OF THE PIECE

The Sorcerer's Apprentice was an immediate success when it premiered in Paris.

Dukas wrote the piece in rondo form, where the original theme of the music returns several times, to depict the possessed broom coming back time and again.