

# NELSON

an opera in three acts

libretto by **Ross Baglin**

**Stuart Greenbaum**

## ACT I

### Scene 1: Battle of St. Vincent

Spotlight opens on Admiral John Jervis, standing on the bridge of a ship with a telescope to his eye.  
Below him, a sailor assisting, also looking off with Jervis and other sailors

**fast, urgent** ♩ = 126

flute *fp* *mp* *f fp*

clarinet in B $\flat$  *fp* *mp* *f fp*

bass clarinet *f* *f*

tenor trombone *f* *slow gliss.*

bass trombone *f* *slow gliss.*

piano *ff* *mp* *ff*

percussion *mf* *ppp* (choke) *mf* *mf*

English Sailor

Jervis

Sailors

violin I *f*

violin II *f*

viola *f*

cello *f*

double bass *f*



12 14

fl. *mf* *ff*

cl. *mf* *ff*

b. cl. *f*

grad. open

grad. open

tb. *f*

b. tb. *f*

pno *ff*

(bowed)

perc. *ppp* *mf*

E. Str.

Jer. *f*

Close or - - - der; They're es - cap - ing. They're es - cap - ing.

Slrs.

12 14

vln I *grad.* *ord.* *ff*

vln II *grad.* *ord.* *ff*

vla. *p* *ff*

vc. *grad.* *ord.* *f*

cb. *grad.* *ord.* *f*



22

fl. *f* *mp*

cl. *f*

b. cl.

tb. *mp*

b. tbn. *mp*

pno *ff* *mf*

perc. *mf* *mf*

cymbals

bass drum

E. Sr. *ff* *mf*

Jer. *ff* *mf*

Sr. *ff* *mf*

Run out the guns. We need a mi-ra-cle. Run out the guns. The speck-led krill And

Run out the guns. The clin-kered bones And bar-na-cles

22

25

vln I *ff*

vln II *ff*

vla *ff* *mf*

vc. *ff* *mf*

cb. *ff* *mf*

27 29

fl. *ff*

cl. *ff*

b. cl. *ff*

tbn. *ff*

b. tbn. *ff*

pno *f*

perc. *f* (choke) cymbals

E. Str *ff*  
 8 pel - li - cles the dark Be - wil - dered wrecks... Nel - son's ship de - serts the line!

Jer.

Slrs  
 En - crust the dark Be - wil - dered wrecks

27 29

vln I *ff*

vln II *ff*

vla *ff* off the string - gritty

vc. *ff*

cb. *ff*

32

fl. *mf* <sup>6</sup> FLZ *ff*

cl. *mf* <sup>6</sup> FLZ *ff*

b. cl. *ff*

tbn. *ff*

b. tbn. *ff*

pno *ff*

perc. *mp* *f* (choke)

E. Str. *ff* He's hauled to - ward them.

Jer. *ff* What!!? Sig - nal it a - gain. Close or - der! Hal They've nailed him there; he's gone for

Slrs

32

vln I *ff*

vln II *ff*

vla. off the string - gritty

vc. off the string - gritty

cb. *ff*

38

fl. *mf* *ff*

cl. *mf* *ff*

b. cl. *mf* *ff*

tb. *p* *ff* *slow gliss.*

b. tb. *p* *ff* *slow gliss.*

pno *mf* *ff*

perc. *ppp* *f* (choke)

E. Str. he's gone for sure! They're hes - i - tant; They've short - ened sail.

Jer. sure! No, no! He's rammed the Span - ish ship!

Slrs

38

off the string - gritty *ff*

vln I *ff* *off the string - gritty*

vln II *ff*

vla

vc.

cb.



44

48

ff fp mp fp

ff fp fp

ff fp f

fp mf

fp mf

f

cymbals mf

crash of guns

8 If they don't pay him through the smoke, We have a chance to o - ver-whelm the rest.

44

48

ff fp f

ff fp f

f

f

f

f



55 Jervis appears dumbstruck

fl. FLZ  
*mf*

cl. FLZ  
*mp* *mf*

b. cl. *p* *f*

tbn.

b. tbn.

pno *f*

perc. bass drum  
*mp* *f*

E. Str 3  
What are your or ders?

Jer.

Slrs

55 grad. ord.

vln I *f*

vln II *f*

vla ord.  
*f*

vc. *f*

cb. *f*

serene

60

fi.

cl.

b. cl.

The lights dim briefly and Sir William Hamilton appears in spotlight at the front of the stage. These monologues are spoken, probably standing at a lecturn.

"Good evening,  
I am Sir William Hamilton,  
His Majesty's ambassador to Naples  
In the time of the Napoleonic Wars.  
I do not know what order Jervis gave,  
But I imagine that he felt that day  
Like an astronomer, whose lens had strayed  
Across the founding of a fiery star..."

tbn.

b. tbn.

pno

*p*

*sc*

perc.

E. Str

Jer.

Slrs

serene

60

vln I

vln II

vla

vc.

cb.



68 75 **urgent**

fl. *p* *fp*

cl. *p* *fp*

b. cl.

tbn.

b. tbn.

pno *hold until end of monologue  
Hamilton recedes*

perc. *cymbals* *mf*

E. Str.

Jer.

Slrs.

68 75 **urgent**

vln I *f*

vln II *f*

vla *f*

vc.

cb.

lights to black as sailors revert to admiralty  
Jervis remains

going straight on

77

fl. FLZ *mf*

cl. FLZ *mf*

b. cl. *f*

tbn. *mf* grad. → FLZ slow gliss.

b. tbn. *mf* grad. → FLZ slow gliss.

pno

perc. bass drum *mp* → *f*

E. Sr. *f*  
8 My Lord, what are your or ders?

Jer. *ff*  
3 Fol-low Nel-son!

Slrs

77

vln I going straight on

vln II

vla

vc. *f*

cb. *f*

**Scene 2: Welcome to the Admiralty**

The spotlight remains on Jervis  
as two Admirals pull up chairs around him.

$\text{♩} = 120$

flute / picc. *mf* *mp*

clarinet in B $\flat$  *mf* *mp*

bass clarinet *mf* *mp*

tenor trombone *mf* *mp*

bass trombone *mf* *mp*

piano *mf* *p*

percussion *mf* (choke) (choke) *p* *mp*

woodblocks *p* *mp*

2nd Admiral

Nelson

Jervis

1st Admiral *mf*  
Jer - vis! wel - come to the

$\text{♩} = 120$

violin I

violin II

viola *pizz.* *mf*

cello *pizz.* *mf*

double bass *pizz.* *mf*

5