

The texts employed in *A Muster of Tales* are drawn from traditional sources of story-telling and mythology. The stories at the centre of the work deal with beings 'out there' in another world and their activities during excursions into this one:

A magic horse

The devil's hunt, the devil and the priest

Banshees

The concept of the work was suggested by the character of, and devices employed by, folk-tales. The telling and saying of these tales is framed by traditional nonsense formulae and an invocative chant. The musical textures make passing nods to other composers whose music, from time to time, has also dealt with the diabolical (in the true sense of the word); Stravinsky, Kagel, Maxwell-Davies and Zappa