



Merry Christmas in Zimbabwe

Merry Kisimusi

Based on *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*

TRADITIONAL

Arranged by VICTOR LÓPEZ (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor	6 Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon	WORLD PARTS
10 Flute	2 Baritone Treble Clef	<i>Available for download from</i>
2 Oboe	(World Part Trombone in B \flat Treble Clef)	www.alfred.com/worldparts
10 B \flat Clarinet	4 Tuba	Horn in E \flat
2 B \flat Bass Clarinet	2 Mallet Percussion	Trombone/Baritone in B \flat Bass Clef
6 E \flat Alto Saxophone	(Bells and/or Xylophone)	Tuba in E \flat Bass Clef
4 B \flat Tenor Saxophone	1 Optional Timpani	Tuba in E \flat Treble Clef
2 E \flat Baritone Saxophone	(Tune: G, C)	Tuba in B \flat Bass Clef
8 B \flat Trumpet	4 Percussion 1	Tuba in B \flat Treble Clef
4 F Horn	(Claves/Snare Drum, Triangle/Bass Drum)	
	2 Percussion 2	
	(Concert Toms [2]/Woodblock)	

PROGRAM NOTES

Christmas is celebrated in different countries and cultures all around the world. In Zimbabwe, most people start the Christmas Day celebrations by attending a church service. Afterwards, everyone goes home to party and celebrate. On the way home, it is traditional to go from house to house and visit family and friends. This activity may take an entire day! At every home, there is a party and the host offers visitors a variety of food to eat or munchies to snack on, presents are exchanged, and everyone is expected to enjoy themselves! On Christmas Day, everyone wears their best clothes; as for some families, the only new clothes received during the year are usually for Christmas. Everyone, but children in particular, looks forward to the parties, as it is a good place to show off the new outfits.

In Zimbabwe, one may find many homes with elaborate Christmas decorations, including a traditional European Christmas tree. However, only the main room is decorated. Christmas carols are sung throughout the holiday season at different events but mainly at church services. Moreover, Christmas occurs in December during the summer months in Zimbabwe. Many of the Christmas cards include pictures of Africa and wild animals. However, in order to keep up with the Christmas spirit, many cards include the traditional snow scenes and other Christmas stories. At dinner parties, chicken with rice is often the main dish served at Christmas because chicken in Zimbabwe is very expensive and it is considered a special treat.

(Paraphrased from the following source: <http://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/zimbabwe.shtml>)

The arranger, Victor López, traveled to Zimbabwe with his family and, upon his return, was inspired to write this arrangement that captures the Spirit of Christmas and the rhythms of Zimbabwe's rich culture. Based on "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," this piece has been appropriately titled "Merry Kisimusi," which means "Merry Christmas" in Zimbabwe.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

This piece utilizes the first six notes of the B \flat major scale, which are typically included in most beginning band method books, and introduced during the first three months of school. However, additional notes, within the guidelines of this series, have been written for the mallet percussion. There are no chromatic notes or awkward skips throughout and there is very limited use of eighth notes. The tonality of the piece is concert C minor, and for playability the key signature has been omitted and accidentals have been added accordingly.

Starting with the introduction through measure 13, the low brass and woodwinds play two eighth notes on beat one. Subsequently, throughout the rest of the piece, no notes smaller than quarter notes have been written for the winds.

Notice that hand percussion instruments have been written in both percussion parts. Make certain that all instruments are readily available when switching from one instrument to the next. Students should aim for a steady pulse and play with confidence. Coordination and practice is key.

Overall, have fun and make beautiful music.

Merry Kisimusi!



Merry Christmas in Zimbabwe
Merry Kisimusi

FULL SCORE
Approx. Duration - 2:00

Based on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"

Traditional
Arranged by Victor López (ASCAP)

Slowly ♩ = 82

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto
Saxophone

B♭ Tenor
Saxophone

E♭ Baritone
Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet

F Horn

Trombone/Baritone/
Bassoon

Tuba

Mallet Percussion
(Bells and/or Xylophone)

Optional
Timpani

Percussion 1
(Claves/Snare Drum,
Triangle/Bass Drum)

Percussion 2
(Concert Toms [2]/
Woodblock)

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed are: Flute, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon, Tuba, Mallet Percussion (Bells and/or Xylophone), Optional Timpani, Percussion 1 (Claves/Snare Drum, Triangle/Bass Drum), and Percussion 2 (Concert Toms [2]/Woodblock). The score is in 4/4 time and marked 'Slowly' with a tempo of ♩ = 82. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score. The score is divided into four measures, numbered 1 through 4 at the bottom.

1

mf
2

3

4



Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

14 Moderately ♩ = 120

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl.

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax.

T. Sax. *mf* Play

Bar. Sax. *mf* Play

Tpt. *f* Play

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *mf* Bells and/or Xylophone

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1 Snare Drum *mf*

Perc. 2 Woodblock *mf* Bass Drum *mf*

13 14 15 16

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mf

mf

24

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Bells (opt. 8va)

f

21

22

23

24

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Concert Tom (medium)

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
A. Sax.
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn./Bar./Bsn.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2

36

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Claves

Concert Toms [2]

f

mf

36

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

44

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

f

f

f

44

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
B. Cl.
A. Sax.
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn./Bar./Bsn.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2