

# A CHRISTMAS HYMN

(Till Morning Is Nigh)

Words and Music by J. E. SPILLMAN and MARTIN LUTHER Setting by ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

#### INSTRUMENTATION

I Conductor

6 C Flute

2 Oboe

4 Ist B Clarinet

4 2nd B Clarinet

2 B Bass Clarinet

2 Bassoon

2 E Alto Saxophone

I By Tenor Saxophone

I E Baritone Saxophone

4 Ist B Trumpet

4 2nd B Trumpet

4 Horn in F

4 Trombone

2 Baritone

2 Baritone Treble Clef

4 Tuba

2 Mallet Percussion (Chimes, Bells)

I Timpani

2 Percussion I

(Crash Cymbals, Triangle)

Percussion II

(Suspended Cymbal)

### **WORLD PARTS**

Horn in 🗔

Trombone in B, Treble Clef

Tuba in By Treble Clef

2 Tuba in El Treble Clef

# PROGRAM NOTES

Based upon the traditional carol "Away in a Manger," this setting for full orchestra takes musical liberties with the original melody. Following an original introduction, the carol is stated in 4/4 time as opposed to the original 3/4, allowing the listener to enjoy the traditional hymn from a totally new perspective.

## NOTE TO CONDUCTOR

The opening phrases should be very gentle in contrast to the subito forte in bar 5. This full band statement should be very stately in its approach.

The first statement of the carol should be very free in contrast to the "rolling" accompaniment figures. Feel free to adjust dynamic markings to ensure proper balance throughout the band.

The horn melody at bar 12 will require careful attention to both balance and interpretation. The phrase begins on the F, which may be out of reach for younger or less experienced players. I suggest moving these particular players 8vb until beat 3 in bar 14. I have cued the horn part in the trumpets to give the conductor another option.

In bar 33, the baritone/bass clarinet melody should be as gently flowing as possible. Please note that I did not double the tenor saxophone on this line for timbre reasons. However, if additional support is needed, please feel free to double one or two trombones on this statement.

I hope that you, your band and audience find "A Christmas Hymn (Till Morning Is Nigh)" to be a rewarding experience. Best wishes for a wonderful performance. Happy Holidays!

Robert W. Smith

**Please note**: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order. We hope this will not present any difficulty for you in distributing the parts. Thank you for your understanding.



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