CHRISTMAS NIGHT FOR WIND ENSEMBLE

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Christmas Night

by Harrison J. Collins

Instrumentation **Notes**

Piccolo

Flute 1 - 2

Oboe 1 - 2

Bassoon 1 - 2

Eb Clarinet

Bb Clarinet 1 - 3

Bb Bass Clarinet

Bb Soprano Saxophone

Eb Alto Saxophone

Bb Tenor Saxophone

Eb Baritone Saxophone

Bb Trumpet 1 - 4 (straight mutes needed)

F Horn 1 - 4

Trombone 1 - 3

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Double Bass

Piano

Percussion.

- 1. Timpani
- 2. Xylophone, Crotales
- 3. Glockenspiel
- 4. Sleigh Bells
- 5. Tambourine, Triangle
- 6. Cymbals Setup (China, Suspended, Hi-hat, Splash)
- Grade: 5 7. Snare Drum
- 8. Bass Drum, Impact Drum

Remarkation only Control on the second secon

This work is a tour de force that requires

great endurance and focus from the

performing ensemble. Take care to

ensure that dynamic markings are

heeded; the music contains many busy

and unclear without proper balance.

textures that can easily become muddled

Duration: ca. 5:30

About the Piece

Christmas Night was originally commissioned from me in 2020 by the Illinois State University Symphonic Band Clarinet Section for clarinet octet. Freda Hogan, the section leader and my roommate at the time, had stressed to me that there was a stunning lack of "good, challenging, Christmas-themed literature for eight clarinets". Naturally, I sought to mitigate this pressing issue that my friends were facing. It so happened that a year later in 2021, I transferred to Texas Christian University, and found that my new band director, Mr. Brian Youngblood, had a great appreciation for Christmas music. I knew immediately that I wanted to transcribe the work for the TCU Symphonic Band, and Mr. Youngblood graciously programmed my transcription in December of 2022.

Christmas Night is a humble ode to Gustav Holst's beautiful work for choir and orchestra, Christmas Day. Holst refers to his work as a "fantasy on old carols". Thus, my work can be considered a "fantasy on a fantasy on old carols". Night derives its material from the same four carols heard in Day—"Good Christian Men Rejoice", "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", "Come Ye Lofty, Come Ye Lowly", and "The First Noel"—and is informed in many ways by the stylistic choices made by Holst in his work. The work is also a respectful nod to the Minor Alterations series of works by David Lovrien, as it takes several of these themes and flips them on their heads by varying their tonalities and meters. Christmas Night is, finally, meant to be an enjoyable and exciting "barn burner" with a sense of humor and a flair for the dramatic.

About the Composer

Harrison J. Collins (b. 1999) began composing at the young age of thirteen. Since then, he has made a name for himself across the United States as a skilled composer. He combines his musical studies in academic settings with years of self-teaching and a strong intuition to write music that challenges and connects to performers and listeners alike.

His works for wind ensemble, orchestra, and chamber ensembles are published by Murphy Music Press, C. Alan Publications, and more, and have been performed across the United States and internationally. He is a winner of numerous composition competitions, including the Sinta Quartet Composition Competition, the Dallas Winds Fanfare Competition, and the National Young Composers Challenge. Harrison is a proud representative and board member for the Millennium Composers Initiative, through which he seeks to provide opportunities for other composers to grow and reach new heights. In 2022, he founded the Aurora Tapestry Collective with his friends Kevin Day, Josh Trentadue, and Katahj Copley.

Harrison spent several years at Illinois State University, where he studied composition with Dr. Roy Magnuson and Dr. Roger Zare. Harrison currently studies at Texas Christian University with Dr. Neil Anderson-Himmelspach and Dr. Till Meyn, where he is seeking a degree in music composition.

Christmas Night after Gustav Holst's "Christmas Day"































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