

# A Light Before Dawn

For Concert Band, Grade 3.5

By Gavin Lendt

## Instrumentation

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1 - Full Score   | 3 - Bb Trumpet 1   |
| 4 - Flute 1  | 3 - Bb Trumpet 2   |
| 4 - Flute 2  | 3 - Bb Trumpet 3   |
| 2 - Oboe   | 3 - F Horn 1       |
| 2 - Bassoon  | 3 - F Horn 2       |
| 3 - Bb Clarinet 1  | 2 - Trombone 1     |
| 3 - Bb Clarinet 2  | 2 - Trombone 2     |
| 3 - Bb Clarinet 3  | 2 - Trombone 3     |
| 2 - Bb Bass Clarinet   | 4 - Euphonium B.C. |
| 2 - Eb Alto Saxophone 1  | 2 - Euphonium T.C. |
| 2 - Eb Alto Saxophone 2  | 4 - Tuba           |
| 2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone   |                    |
| 2 - Eb Baritone Saxophone  |                    |
|  |                    |
| 2 - Bells  |                    |
| 2 - Marimba  |                    |
| 2 - Vibraphone   |                    |
| 2 - Timpani  |                    |
| 2 - Percussion: Wind Chimes/Suspended Cymbal/Bass Drum/Crash Cymbals |                    |
| 2 - Piano  |                    |

**Full Set - \$60.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$12.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



# A Light Before Dawn

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## About the Work

Commissioned by band director Scott Weber and the Benton Community High School Band Boosters, Benton, Iowa, "A Light Before Dawn" stands as a poignant tribute in memory of Debbie, a saxophone player in the band whose life was tragically cut short.

This composition serves as a heartfelt memorial, capturing the essence of hope, resilience, and the enduring light that persists even in the face of profound loss.

The music unfolds like a narrative, reflecting the emotional landscape surrounding Debbie's memory. From gentle, reflective passages to powerful crescendos, "A Light Before Dawn" navigates the complexities of grief while offering a musical embrace to those who influenced us.

"A Light Before Dawn" invites listeners to share in the collective reflection on love, loss, and the enduring light that lives on in our hearts.

## Rehearsal Suggestions

If a piano is not available for the performance, utilize either the provided cues at the beginning or allow the flute solo to be performed unaccompanied. The other piano cues throughout the piece should be played in the absence of a piano.

The alto saxophone solos throughout the piece symbolize Debbie, who was a saxophone player.

Measure 35 (Innocently) should be slightly faster and waltz-like.

Exercise restraint in the Fortissimo at measure 73; avoid making the piece excessively loud.

The fermata silence at measure 73 should persist until any decay or reverb has completely dissipated. Music is an interplay between sound and silence, allowing silence the room to breathe.

The Trumpet, Clarinet, and Flute solos in measure 78 hold a special significance as they were originally intended to be played by three of Debbie's closest friends.

Take your time with the mallet's G and Bb fermatas in the final measure. Also, the long notes of the winds in the final bar should fade into nothing. Instead of stopping the sound, you're starting the silence.



### **About the Composer**

Gavin Lendt is an award-winning composer, conductor, and horn player. Known mostly for his band works, he is also a recognized composer of music for orchestra, choir, solo instruments, and small ensembles, and he writes music for YouTube and Twitch content creators. He has received several commissions throughout the United States, and his music has been performed all over the world. Most recently, his work "A Wind in Time" was selected as a winner of the 2021 Grand Mesa Music Composition Contest. In December of 2022, he premiered his large-scale work for orchestra and choir, "Living in the Light."

His music is known for incorporating rich harmonies and dramatic counterlines. Both students and teachers find his music accessible and enjoyable to play. Many high school bands have received superior ratings at contests for their performances of his works.

Gavin studied composition at the University of Kansas with James Barnes and has had private instruction with luminary composers such as Stephen Melillo, John Mackey, Julie Giroux, Charles Rochester Young and Gabriela Frank.

An avid horn player, Gavin has performed with the Topeka Symphony, Kansas City Civic Orchestra, Hollywood Hills Orchestra, and the Lenexa Orchestra. Gavin is also the musical director and arranger for the Kansas City Horn Club, a nonprofit organization designed to share enthusiasm and increase interest in the horn. Gavin lives in Lenexa, Kansas, with his music educator wife, Stacy.

FULL SCORE  
GRADE 3.5  
DURATION 4:45

Commissioned by the Benton Community School District High School Bands,  
directed by Scott Weber, in honor of their classmate and friend, Debbie

# A Light Before Dawn

GAVIN LENDT  
ASCAP

Adagio  $\text{♩} = 60$

1. Solo dolce

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument. The instruments listed on the left are: Flute 1/2, Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinet 1, B♭ Clarinet 2/3, B♭ Bass Clarinet, E♭ Alto Saxophone 1/2, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, E♭ Baritone Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet 1, B♭ Trumpet 2/3, F Horn 1/2, Trombone 1, Trombone 2/3, Euphonium, Tuba, Bells, Marimba, Vibraphone, Timpani (F, G, B♭, E), and Percussion (Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals). The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *n.*, and performance instructions like "Pno. (one player)", "Bsn.", and "(Motor Speed: Medium Slow)". The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs (3 and 4) for various sections.



Fl. 1/2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
B $\flat$  Cl. 1  
B $\flat$  Cl. 2/3  
B. Cl.  
A. Sx. 1/2  
T. Sx.  
B. Sx.  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 1  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 2/3  
Hn. 1/2  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2/3  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Bls.  
Mrb.  
Vib.  
Timp.  
Perc.  
B.D.







The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts and dynamics:

- Fl. 1/2:** *mf* (with *a2* marking)
- Ob.:** *mf*
- Bsn.:** *mf*
- B. Cl. 1:** *mf*
- B. Cl. 2/3:** *mf*
- B. Cl.:** *mf*
- A. Sx. 1/2:** *mf*
- T. Sx.:** *mf*
- B. Sx.:** *mf*
- B. Tpt. 1:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- B. Tpt. 2/3:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- Hn. 1/2:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- Tbn. 1:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- Tbn. 2/3:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- Euph.:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- Tuba:** *mf* (first), *mp* (second), *mf* (third)
- Bls.:** *mf*
- Mrb.:** *mf*
- Vib.:** *mf*
- Timp.:** *p* (first), *mp* (second)
- Perc.:** *p* (B.D.), *pp* (Sus. Cym.), *mf* (later)

The score features a complex rhythmic structure with multiple time signatures: 4/4, 3/4, and 4/4. A large watermark "Randall's Preview Music" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

