

By the Clear Fountain

A La Claire Fontaine

Canadian Folk Song
Arranged by Ryan Meeboer

Instrumentation:

Flute - 8
Oboe - 2
Bb Clarinet - 8
Bb Bass Clarinet - 2
Eb Alto Saxophone - 6
Bb Tenor Saxophone - 2
Eb Baritone Saxophone - 1
Bb Trumpet - 6
F Horn - 2
Trombone - 4
Baritone, Bassoon - 3
Baritone Treble Clef - 1
Tuba - 2
String Bass - 1
Bells - 1
Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Bass Drum,
Rainstick, Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes - 4

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By the Clear Fountain (A La Claire Fontaine) is a song that tells of a young man's thoughts about a young woman that he loves. This song originated in France, but was brought to Canada many years ago and has become a part of Canadian heritage. It was considered to be a political song used by French-Canadians prior to Confederation.

This arrangement of the Canadian folk song is simplified for beginning bands to work on techniques for playing a lyrical piece of music. Rhythms mostly consist of using half and quarter notes, and the ranges of most instruments stay within the first six notes learned in most method books.

Prior to working on the piece, spend time working on sustaining long tones, and focussing on legato tonguing, in order to keep the smooth motion of the piece consistent throughout. Try practicing some of the rhythms of the piece on a single pitch so students can focus on this skill, before trying to add the pitches.

It opens using fragments of the melodies from the verse and refrain of the original song, used in call response form. The rainstick in the percussion is important, as it reflects the running waters of the fountain referred to in the lyrics.

The main body of the piece is arranged in a chorale fashion, with all the parts moving together to provide harmony for the melody played by the flute, clarinet, or alto saxophone. The trumpet performs a 'heroic' counter-melody at measure 13. It is important that the trumpet is heard here, but do not overpower the main melody in the flute and alto saxophone.

At measure 21, the low winds and brass perform a deep refrain opening. If any instruments are missing, this part can be easily covered by trombone if necessary. The chorale-like style of the piece returns at measure 25, before the piece closes with a repeat of the introduction.

By the clear fountain, going for a walk
I found the water so clear I had to bathe.

Refrain:

I've loved you for a long time, I will never forget you
Under the oak's leaves, I lay and dried.
On the highest bough, a nightingale sang.

Sing, nightingale, sing, you of the joyous heart.
Your heart is to laugh, mine is to cry.

This folk song arrangement is part of a collection for young band celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary since joining Confederation.

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Gently ♩ = 76 2 3 *rit.* 4 5 a Tempo

Flute *mf* *p*

Oboe *mf*

B♭ Clarinet *div.* *mf* *p*

B♭ Bass Clarinet *mf* *p*

E♭ Alto Saxophone *mf*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *mf*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone *mf*

B♭ Trumpet *mf*

F Horn *mf*

Trombone *mf*

Baritone Bassoon *mf* *p*

Tuba *mf* *p*

Bells

PREVIEW ONLY

6

7

8

9

10

11

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn

Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

p

p

PREVIEW ONLY

12

13

14

15

16

17

PREVIEW ONLY

18

19

20

21

22

23

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn

Bari Bsn

Tuba

Bells

stagger breathe

p

p

p

p

p

PREVIEW ONLY

24

25

26

27

28

29

FL

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn

Bari Bsn

Tuba

Bells

PREVIEW ONLY

30

31

32

33

34

35

rit.

Fl *mf* *p*

Ob *mf* *p*

Cl *div.* *mf* *p*

B Cl *mf* *p*

A Sax *mf* *p*

T Sax *mf* *p*

B Sax *mf* *p*

Tpt *mf* *div.* *p*

Hn *mf* *p*

Trbn *mf* *p*

Bari Bsn *mf* *p*

Tuba *mf* *p*

Bells *mf* *p*

PREVIEW ONLY