

O Little Town of Bethlehem

music by Lewis Redner
and lyrics by Phillip Brooks

setting by

Stuart P. O'Neil

Complete Band Instrumentation

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 - Full Score | 5 - Trumpet 2 |
| 4 - Flute 1 | 6 - F Horn |
| 6 - Flute 2 & Oboe | 6 - Trombone |
| 5 - Clarinet 1 | 4 - Baritone & Bassoon |
| 7 - Clarinet 2 | 2 - Baritone T.C. |
| 3 - Bass Clarinet | 4 - Tuba |
| 4 - Alto Saxophone | 1 - Bells |
| 1 - Tenor Saxophone | 1 - Timpani |
| 1 - Baritone Saxophone | 2 - Percussion |
| 4 - Trumpet 1 | Crash Cymbals,
Bass Drum |

about the music...

O Little Town of Bethlehem was written in 1868. Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal priest from Philadelphia's Church of the Holy Trinity, wrote the text; Lewis Redner, the church's organist, composed the music. The song gradually made its way into Protestant hymnals over the next twenty years, and it has since become a standard in the Christmas repertoire.

This band setting of the beloved carol is straightforward and fairly conservative. It is also more demanding than it may initially appear. Maintaining a beautiful tone throughout should be the highest priority. Lines should be played in a fluid, lyrical style, breathing being staggered as much as possible. The tempo throughout should be approached in a *rubato* fashion, with more motion at the beginnings of phrases and a gentle tapering at the ends. Dynamic contrasts should occur naturally, providing dramatic and musical interest, but with no real surprises, particularly during the climatic moments following measure 49. There is a considerable amount of chromaticism and a significant number of enharmonic equivalents - particularly concert G sharps - throughout this piece. Please allow adequate time to address and reinforce these new concepts with your students before you begin rehearsing the piece with them. Enjoy!

about the arranger...

Stuart P. O'Neil (b. 1969) has taught vocal and instrumental music for Kansas public schools since 1993. He received a bachelor of music education degree from the University of Nebraska and a master of music theory degree from the University of Kansas. His compositions for choir, concert band, jazz band, orchestra, and various chamber ensembles have been performed by school, university, and community ensembles throughout the Midwest. In addition to his work as a teacher and composer, Mr. O'Neil also serves as an arranger, accompanist, adjudicator, and conductor. He currently lives in Lawrence, KS, with his family.



O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lyrical, Rubato $\text{♩} = 104\text{--}108$

lyrics by Phillip Brooks, music by Lewis Redner
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Flute 1

Flute 2/Oboe

Bassoon

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Baritone

Tuba

Bells

Timpani (3)

Percussion
crash cymbals
bass drum

tune: B_b - C - F

1 2 3 4

O Little Town of Bethlehem -2-

9

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsn

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc

5 6 7 8 9

Musical score for "O Little Town of Bethlehem" page 3, featuring 16 staves of music for various instruments:

- Fl 1
- Fl 2/Ob
- Bssn
- Clar 1
- Clar 2
- Bs Clar
- Alto Sx
- Tenor Sx
- Bari Sx
- Trp 1
- Trp 2
- Hn
- Trb
- Bar
- Tuba
- Bells
- Timp
- Perc

The score consists of five systems of music, each containing four measures. Measures 10-11 are identical for all instruments. Measures 12-13 show a transition, with some instruments changing dynamics or notes. Measures 14 are the final ones for the section.

O Little Town of Bethlehem -4-

poco rit

17 *a tempo*

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsn

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

poco rit

a tempo

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

poco rit

a tempo

Bells

Timp

Perc

15 16 17 18 19 20

25

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsn

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc

21 22 23 24 25

O Little Town of Bethlehem -6-

A musical score for a 16-piece ensemble, spanning five systems of four measures each. The instruments are Flute 1, Flute 2/Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Horn, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Tuba, Bells, Timpani, and Percussion. Measures 26-27 show woodwind entries. Measures 28-29 feature brass entries. Measure 30 concludes with a full ensemble entry. Measure 29 includes dynamic markings *mf* for Flute 2/Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Horn, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Tuba, Bells, and Timpani.

Fl 1
Fl 2/Ob
Bssn
Clar 1
Clar 2
Bs Clar
Alto Sx
Tenor Sx
Bari Sx
Trp 1
Trp 2
Hn
Trb
Bar
Tuba
Bells
Timp
Perc

26 27 28 29 30

33

poco rit

a tempo

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsns

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc

31

32

33

34

35

36

O Little Town of Bethlehem -8-

41 *a tempo*

poco rit

Fl 1
Fl 2/Ob
Bsns
Clar 1
Clar 2
Bs Clar
Alto Sx
Tenor Sx
Bari Sx

poco rit *a tempo*

Trp 1
Trp 2
Hn
Trb
Bar
Tuba

poco rit *a tempo*

Bells
Timp
Perc

A musical score for a symphony orchestra, featuring 17 staves of music. The instruments listed on the left are Fl 1, Fl 2/Ob, Bsn, Clar 1, Clar 2, Bs Clar, Alto Sx, Tenor Sx, Bari Sx, Trp 1, Trp 2, Hn, Trb, Bar, Tuba, Bells, Timp, and Perc. The score is divided into measures 42 through 46. Measures 42 and 43 show mostly rests or low notes. Measures 44 and 45 feature sustained notes with grace notes and slurs. Measure 46 concludes with a final note on the Tuba. A large red watermark for "TROMP MUSIC PUBLISHER, INC." is diagonally across the page.

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsn

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc

42

43

44

45

46

O Little Town of Bethlehem -10-

49

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsn

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc

The score shows a progression of measures from 47 to 51. Measures 47 and 48 show various instruments playing eighth and sixteenth note patterns. Measure 49 begins with a dynamic of *mf* for Flute 1 and Bassoon, followed by a crescendo for all instruments. Measures 50 and 51 continue with similar patterns and dynamics, with the bassoon and tuba providing a prominent harmonic foundation.

poco rall

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsn

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc

52 f 53 54 55 56

O Little Town of Bethlehem -12-

57

poco rit

Fl 1

Fl 2/Ob

Bsns

Clar 1

Clar 2

Bs Clar

Alto Sx

Tenor Sx

Bari Sx

Trp 1

Trp 2

Hn

Trb

Bar

Tuba

Bells

Timp

Perc



