BOSNIAN FOLK SONGS

Commissioned by the West Ridge Middle School Band, Austin, Texas, Mr. Bob Parsons, Conductor

by Fred J. Allen

Complete Band Instrumentation

- 1 Full Score
- 4 1st Flute
- 4 2nd Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 3 1st B^b Clarinet
- 4 2nd B^b Clarinet
- 4 3rd B^b Clarinet
- 3 B^b Bass Clarinet
- 2 Bassoon
- 2 1st E^b Alto Saxophone

- 2 2nd E^b Alto Saxophone
- 2 B^b Tenor Saxophone
- 1 E^b Baritone Saxophone
- 2 1st B^b Trumpet
- 2 2nd Bb Trumpet
- 2 3rd B^b Trumpet
- 4 1st & 2nd Horns in F
- 4 1st Trombone
- 4 2nd Trombone
- 2 Euphonium B.C.

- 2 Euphonium T.C.
- 5 Tuba
- 1 Timpani
- 2 Percussion I Bells, Vibraphone.
- 2 Percussion II Tambourine, Crash Cymbal, Triangle.
- 1 Percussion III Snare Drum, Bass Drum.

TRN Music Publisher, Inc.
P.O. Box 197 * Alto, NM 88312 * USA
www.trnmusic.com

About the music - - -

When Hungarian composer Bela Bartok (1881-1945) collected the folk music of Yugoslavia in the early part of this century, he noted the ethnic origin of each tune. This is fortunate for us, because now Yugoslavia has been divided by strife into separate nations, one of which is Bosnia. Though there are several tunes identified as Bosnian in Bartok's collection, only two are used in this setting. The first occurs in the clarinets in measure 7, and is only four bars in length. The other tune occurs in the trumpet solo in mm. 44-47. All other material is original and was written to bind the two folk songs together in this piece.

The tempo at the beginning is not fast, but should not drag either. At m. 42, the tempo should be slightly faster and the overall style calls for more of a "lift". At m. 67, return to the opening tempo. At m. 75, the upper woodwinds, mallets and snare drum should be light and lifted in style, while all the remaining instruments are playing longer values with slight spacing.

Admiration is due to the students at West Ridge Middle School, in Austin, Texas, who requested that this commissioned work draw attention to the suffering of the young people in Bosnia. Perhaps this music can remind us that even war cannot silence the joy that can be expressed in the simple folk songs of a nation. The text of the first folk song begins as follows:

"By Sarajevo there's a green garden.
In that garden there's a well of cold water,
By the well, a marble stone,
On the stone, an aged vase,
In the vase three flowers bloomed."

About the composer - - -



Fred Allen is Director of Bands at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. In addition to his responsibilities with the band, he teaches conducting and music education classes. Prior to his current position, Allen taught at Abilene Christian University and for eleven years in public schools. His areas of specialization include literature for bands and intonation of the wind instruments. TRN has published pieces for band by Fred J. Allen which draw upon his experience as a public school teacher. He attempts to present opportunities for expressive playing within the range and rhythm constriction necessary for young instrumentalists. Allen is a member of the College Band Directors Association, Texas Music Educators Association, and Phi Beta Mu honorary bandmasters fraternity.





