

# WASSAIL

Movement I from the VAUGHAN WILLIAMS SUITE

Setting by ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

## INSTRUMENTATION

1	Conductor	3	3rd B $\flat$ Trumpet
3	1st C Flute	2	1st Horn in F
3	2nd C Flute	2	2nd Horn in F
1	1st Oboe	2	1st Trombone
1	2nd Oboe	2	2nd Trombone
2	Bassoon	2	3rd Trombone
3	1st B $\flat$ Clarinet	2	Euphonium
3	2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet	1	Baritone Treble Clef
3	3rd B $\flat$ Clarinet	4	Tuba
1	E $\flat$ Alto Clarinet	3	Mallet Percussion (Bells, Vibraphone, Chimes)
2	B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	1	Timpani
1	E $\flat$ Contralto Clarinet	4	Percussion I (Wind Chimes, Small Triangle, Medium Triangle, Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
2	1st E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	2	Percussion II (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals)
2	2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone		
1	B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone		
1	E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone		
3	1st B $\flat$ Trumpet		
3	2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet		

### WORLD PARTS

Available for download from [www.alfred.com/worldparts](http://www.alfred.com/worldparts)

1st Horn in E $\flat$   
 2nd Horn in E $\flat$   
 1st Trombone in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
 2nd Trombone in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
 3rd Trombone in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
 1st Trombone in B $\flat$  Treble Clef  
 2nd Trombone in B $\flat$  Treble Clef  
 3rd Trombone in B $\flat$  Treble Clef  
 Baritone in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
 Tuba in E $\flat$  Bass Clef  
 Tuba in E $\flat$  Treble Clef  
 Tuba in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
 Tuba in B $\flat$  Treble Clef

**Please note:** Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order. We hope this will not present any difficulty for you in distributing the parts. Thank you for your understanding.

## PROGRAM NOTES

The British composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams, was born in 1872 and died in 1958 at the age of 86. He enjoyed one of the longest and most successful creative careers in music history. As a member of the English Folk-Song Society, Vaughan Williams often went into the country to collect native folk music in its purest state. He felt very strongly that the rapid industrialization of the British Isles would result in the loss of these folk songs unless they were written down and introduced to a new generation. As a result, much of his writing was based on his study of folk songs creating a legacy in sound that characterizes British music.

The “Wassail Song of Gloucestershire” was one of the folk songs that Vaughan Williams chose to preserve through his writing. Capturing the spirit of the holiday season, he created a work for SATB choir based upon this song from his native land. Wassail is a centuries-old English ceremonial drink made of apple cider. The word “wassail” is Saxon in origin and translates to “good health” during the annual celebratory toast.

Robert W. Smith, in tribute to the great composer, has crafted a setting for concert band of the Wassail Song in the style of Vaughan Williams. Beginning with a lively solo statement of the melody, the clarinet choir introduces the song in its original form. Using Vaughan Williams as the inspiration, the melody is explored and restated in multiple variations using the various timbral colors of the concert band.

WASSAIL was commissioned by Marcia Zoffuto and the Coyle Middle School Band of Rowlett, Texas. The band premiered the setting in the spring of 2005. In November of the same year, the band performed WASSAIL at the Western International Band Clinic in Seattle, Washington, under the baton of Mr. Smith.

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The introductory solo was originally scored for alto saxophone. However, it has been liberally cross-cued to allow multiple-performance options.

The clarinet choir statement of the full melody should be as legato as possible with care given to the shaping of the line.

Please note that the tempo in both the opening solo, measure 26, can be interpreted across a wide range. At measure 26, I prefer 72 b.p.m. or even a bit faster if possible. Please feel free to adjust the tempo within the notated range to suit your particular performance situation.

Please adjust the dynamic marking of the euphonium at bar 26 to ensure clarity and balance. Each subsequent variation should be increasingly joyous, leading to a majestic, yet elegant rallantando in the final measures.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Marcia Zoffuto for her role in the creation of this piece. I was fortunate enough to hear the Coyle Middle School Band at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago as they performed *Holst's Winter Suite*. Following that performance, I was honored and thankful for Ms. Zoffuto to offer the suggestion and commission of a work honoring the life and creativity of Ralph Vaughan Williams in a similar fashion. WASSAIL is the first of three movements in fulfillment of her musical vision.

I hope that you and the band enjoy WASSAIL and find it to be a valued addition to your concert program at any time throughout the year. Best wishes for a wonderful performance!





♩ = 80

10 Gently

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Bsn.

Cls. 1 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Ca. Cl.

A. Saxes. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2 3

Euph.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Susp. Cym. *p*

Bells *mf*

W.C. *mp*

Sm. Trgl. *mp*

6 7 8 9 10 11

This musical score is for a conductor, covering measures 12 through 18. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with multiple staves for each instrument family. The woodwind section includes Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Bassoon, Clarinets (1, 2, and 3), Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, and Contrabass Clarinet. The saxophone section includes Alto Saxophones (1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpets (1, 2, and 3), Horns (1 and 2), Trombones (1, 2, and 3), Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Percussion I, and Percussion II. The score begins at measure 12 and ends at measure 18. A rehearsal mark '18' is placed above the first staff at the start of measure 18. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The word 'tutti' is written above the first staff at the beginning of measure 18. The word 'Play' is written above the second staff at the beginning of measure 18. The score is in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).