
Eighth Note Publications

Land of the Silver Birch

Donald Coakley
Arranged by David Marlatt

The origin of this folk song is not known. It was very popular in the northern lake country of Ontario, Canada. It was a well known song in the summer camps of the region, because of its evocation of the native peoples of North America.

Work to bring out the haunting, mysterious quality of the melody. The opening should be played in a strong, secure manner. Throughout, the snare drum should not dominate, but lend support to the other parts. Also, it is important that the snare drum maintain a steady tempo, throughout this setting. All stylistic indications should be carefully observed. The ending should be very subdued.

PREVIEW ONLY

Donald Coakley studied at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York in Potsdam, New York, the School of Music at Temple University and the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. While studying at the Conservatory, he was a composition student of Vincent Persichetti and studied trombone with Henry Charles Smith, principal trombone of the Philadelphia Orchestra. Following graduate school, he taught at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia, and also served as conductor of the Camden Choral Arts Society in Camden, New Jersey. After a successful tenure at Cardinal Dougherty, Coakley joined the faculty of the School of Music at Temple University.

In the early 1970s, Coakley was invited to join the Music Department of the Scarborough School System, becoming Assistant Coordinator of Music shortly thereafter. As such, he was responsible for the elementary instrumental music program in the school system. He also headed the instrumental wing at the Scarborough Music Camps. In 1970 he founded the Scarborough Schools Symphony Orchestra and subsequently oversaw the inception of four other All-City instrumental ensembles.

Donald Coakley has written successfully for school, university and professional groups. He is a member of the Canadian League of Composers, as well as an Associate Composer with the Canadian Music Centre. In 1977, Coakley received the Distinguished Service to Education Award from the State University of New York; and in 1994 he received the Anson Taylor Award for excellence in teaching from the Scarborough Board of Education.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy
Brass Quintet (optional Percussion)

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LAND OF THE SILVER BIRCH

Canadian Folk Song
Arranged by Donald Coakley
Adapted for Brass Quintet by D. Marlatt

Steady and Haunting

$\bullet = 84$

Brass Quintet Score (Measures 1-19):

- Brass Instruments:** B♭ Trumpet 1, B♭ Trumpet 2, F Horn, Trombone, Tuba.
- Drums:** Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal.
- Measure 1:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line starting on G4, marked *mp* and *alone*. The tempo is 84 bpm.
- Measures 2-6:** Continuation of the B♭ Trumpet 1 melody.
- Measure 7:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *f*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal enter with a rhythmic pattern.
- Measures 8-10:** Continuation of the B♭ Trumpet 1 melody, marked *f*.
- Measure 11:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal continue their pattern.
- Measures 12-14:** Continuation of the B♭ Trumpet 1 melody, marked *mf*.
- Measure 15:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal continue their pattern.
- Measure 16:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal continue their pattern.
- Measure 17:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal continue their pattern.
- Measure 18:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal continue their pattern.
- Measure 19:** B♭ Trumpet 1 plays a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Snare Drum and Suspended Cymbal continue their pattern.

20 21 22 23 24 25

cup mute

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

S.D.

mf *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

26 not lead 27 28 29 30 31

mf *f* *mf* *f* *f* *f*

lead open

mf *f* *mf* *f* *f* *f*

mf *f* *mf* *f* *f* *f*

mf *f* *mf* *f* *f* *f*

mf *f* *mf* *f* *f* *f*

32 33 34 Trbn/Tuba leads 35 36 37

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Trbn/Tuba leads

Trbn/Tuba leads

Trbn/Tuba leads

lead

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

lead

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

mf *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

38 lead 40 41 42 43

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

Susp. Cym. *f* S.D. *mp*

44 45 46 47 48 *rit.*

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

Susp. Cym. *mp*

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