AESOP’S FABLES, for narrator and band, musically portrays four tales attributed to the ancient moralist. The first two movements, “The Hare and The Tortoise” and “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” are based on two of Aesop’s better-known stories. “The Hare and The Tortoise” is a fast, chromatic caccia with a slight pause in the activity for a certain overconfident rabbit’s brief nap! In “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” the calm musical accompaniment provides a haunting counterpoint with fatal drama. The latter two movements, “The Dog and The Bone” and “The Wolf and His Shadow” are settings of two of Aesop’s lesser-known fables. “The Dog and The Bone” is a brief, transparently scored instrumental sigh that mirrors the story’s moral: the disappointment of coveting. The final movement, “The Wolf and His Shadow” features the happy gigue of a wolf that mistakes his long shadow for actual stature and struts about in unfounded pride. Much to the wolf’s dismay, it is the true king of beasts, the lion, who takes the last promenade!

The text is from *The Best of Aesop’s Fables* retold by Margaret Clark and illustrated by Charlotte Voake, Copyright in 1990 Margaret Clark (Walker Books Limited, London, published in the USA by Little, Brown & Co., Inc.).

**Instrumentation**

| 1 — Conductor Score | 2 — 1st Trombone |
| 5 — Piccolo/1st Flute | 2 — 2nd Trombone |
| 5 — 2nd Flute | 2 — 3rd Trombone |
| 2 — Oboe | 2 — Baritone B.C. |
| 2 — Bassoon | 2 — Baritone T.C. |
| 4 — 1st B♭ Clarinet | 4 — Tuba |
| 4 — 2nd B♭ Clarinet | 1 — String Bass |
| 4 — 3rd B♭ Clarinet | Percussion – 7 players: |
| 1 — E♭ Alto Clarinet | 3 — Mallet Percussion |
| 2 — B♭ Bass Clarinet | (Orchestra Bells, Vibraphone/Xylophone) |
| 2 — 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone | 3 — Percussion 1 (Snare Drum/Slap Stick or Whip/Tam-Tam, Bass Drum/Claves/Crush Cymbals) |
| 2 — 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone | 2 — Percussion 2 (Triangle/Tam-Tam/Wind Chimes/Tambourine/Sleigh Bells, Suspended Cymbal) |
| 2 — B♭ Tenor Saxophone | 1 — Timpani |
| 1 — E♭ Baritone Saxophone | 1 — Narrator |
| 3 — 1st B♭ Trumpet | 1 — Timpani |
| 3 — 2nd B♭ Trumpet | 1 — Narrator |
| 3 — 3rd B♭ Trumpet | 1 — Narrator |
| 1 — 1st F Horn | 1 — Narrator |
| 1 — 2nd F Horn | 1 — Narrator |
| 1 — 3rd F Horn | 1 — Narrator |
| 1 — 4th F Horn | 1 — Narrator |

Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automated 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.
**Aesop’s Fables**

**I. The Hare and The Tortoise**

Composer: Scott Watson

Text settings by Margaret Clark, used with permission

Commissioned and premiered by the West Chester University Wind Ensemble, West Chester, Pennsylvania, Kenneth Laudermilch, Director

Duration - 10:00

**Vivo!** $\frac{1}{4} = 144$

**Piccolo, Flutes**

**Oboe**

**Bassoon**

**Bb Clarinets**

**E Alto Clarinet**

**Bb Bass Clarinet**

**E Alto Saxophones**

**B Tenor Saxophone**

**E Baritone Saxophone**

**Narrator**

**Bb Trumpets**

**F Horns**

**Trombones**

**Baritone**

**Bass**

(String Bass[Db])

**Mallet Percussion**

(Orchestra Bells, Vibraphone/Xylophone)

**Percussion 1**

(S.D./Slap Stick or Whip/ Tam-Tam, B.D./Claves/ Crash Cymbals)

**Percussion 2**

(Triangle/Tam-Tam/ Wind Chimes/Tambourine/ Sleigh Bells, Sus. Cym.)

**Timpani**

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Hear this composition online at alfred.com
A hare was one day making fun of a tortoise. “You are a slowpoke,” he said.
“You couldn’t run if you tried.”

"Don’t you laugh at me," said the tortoise.
"I bet that I could beat you in a race."

"Couldn’t," replied the hare. "Could," said the tortoise... "All right," said the hare. "I’ll race you..."
set them off. "Ready... ...set... ...go!" said the fox.
The hare went off at a great pace.
He got so far ahead, he decided he may as well stop for a rest.
The tortoise came plodding along, never stopping for a moment.
When the hare woke up, he ran as fast as he could to the finish line.
but he was too late–the tortoise had already won the race!

molto rit.
II. The Boy Who Cried Wolf

Andante, un poco agitato $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{cm}} = 80$

Piccolo, Flutes

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinets

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophones

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

Narrator

B♭ Trumpets

F Horns

Trombones

Baritone

Bass

Mallet Percussion

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Timpani
A boy was sent to look after a flock of sheep as they grazed near a village.
It was raining, and he was bored, so he decided to play a trick on the villagers.
"Wolf! Wolf!" he shouted as loud as he could. Out ran all the villagers, leaving whatever
they were doing, to drive away the wolf. When they rushed into the field...
and found the sheep quite safe...

...the boy laughed and laughed.
\textbf{poco mosso}
The next day the same thing happened. "Wolf! Wolf!" shouted the boy.

"Wolf! Wolf!" shouted the boy.
Con moto \( \frac{\text{m}'}{\text{m}} = 112 \)

On the third day a wolf really did come.
But this time the villagers ignored the boy, because they thought he was only playing tricks, as he had done before.
Can you guess what happened?
III. The Dog and the Bone

Lento, espressivo $\frac{1}{4} = 60$

A dog was walking over a bridge carrying
a large bone in her mouth. Looking down into the stream, she saw another dog there.
It was carrying an even bigger bone in its mouth. Immediately, the dog on the bridge jumped into the water—
She snatched for the bigger bone and dropped her own. And then there was just one cold, wet dog, and no bone at all!
IV. The Wolf and his Shadow

One day, when the sun was low in the sky, a wolf caught sight of an enormous shadow on the ground beside him. He looked all round, but there was no one else about.
“Why that’s my shadow,” said the wolf.
“What a wonderful animal I must be!”
“What a wonderful animal I must be! I've never even seen another animal as big as that.”

“The lion calls"
himself king, but he's not nearly as big as I am. I am going to be king from now on."
So the wolf strutted about, thinking of all the things he would do now that he was king.
He was so busy thinking about himself, he didn't even notice the lion, who suddenly sprang on him and swallowed him whole.
As the lion licked his lips, he said, “What a silly wolf! Everyone
knows that sometimes your shadow is big, sometimes it’s small,
and sometimes you have... no shadow at all.”