

Sneaking on the Housetops

Ryan Meeboer

Have you ever wondered how Santa can get around everyone's house without making a sound? This arrangement of *Up on the Housetop* is a musical depiction of what it would sound like if Santa was caught sneaking around.

The piece has a grand opening written in a traditional chorale fashion. At measure 9, the feel of the main body of the piece is introduced. A major factor of this piece is extreme use of staccato markings, which help give the piece that light, sneaky feeling. As well many of the dynamic markings reflect Santa being quiet as he tiptoes around the house. Be sure you stress both of these concepts with your students as you work through this piece.

Every instrument gets an opportunity to shine in this piece, either by playing the melody or getting short solis. Trumpet 1 plays the main melody for the majority of the piece as well as all getting the chance to play the light, fun background to the main melody. The Horn, Trombone and Tuba have the opportunity to show their skills by representing Santa climbing down the chimney (in measure 23), going up the chimney (in measure 46), or by playing the role of jolly old St. Nick himself by 'ho ho ho'ing in the B section of this piece at measure 29.

A final factor to note, be sure that your students are careful to read the music accurately. The melody of this piece has been modified to suit the feeling and mood of sneaking old Kris Kringle, including parts where the melody is delayed, such as at measures 19 and 39.

PREVIEW ONLY

Ryan Meeboer is a music educator, who obtained his degree through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As a composer, he has written and arranged many pieces for concert band, jazz band, and small ensembles. His young band piece, *Last Voyage of the Queen Anne's Revenge*, has been well received by performers, educators, and audiences, and his pieces are starting to be found on festival and contest lists. As a performer, he has had experience in several groups, including concert and stage bands, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duets, and the Hamilton based swing group, "The Main Swing Connection".

Ryan began studying music at the age of seven through private guitar lessons. During his years in elementary and secondary school, he gained experience in several families of instruments. Focusing on music education and theory (including composition and orchestration), he attended McMaster University to achieve his honours degree in music. Ryan is currently a teacher for the Halton District School Board in Ontario, where he continues to compose and arrange.

*Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece
or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.*

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DURATION: 1:30

DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy

Brass Quintet

SNEAKING ON THE HOUSETOPS

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Boldly, Half-time feel $\text{♩} = 120$

2 3 4 5

B♭ Trumpet 1 *f*

B♭ Trumpet 2 *f*

F Horn *f*

Trombone *f*

Tuba *f*

6 7 *rit.* 8 9 Lively $\text{♩} = 140$ 10 *p*

PREVIEW ONLY

11 12 *f* 13 *mf* 14 15 *mp*

mp

mp

mp

mp

16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

mf

PREVIEW ONLY

26 27 28 29 30

p

mp lead

mp lead

mp

31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40

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

lead

not lead

not lead

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

41 42

1. 2.

43 44 45 46

The image shows a musical score for five staves, numbered 43 to 46. The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The first two staves (treble clef) contain a vocal line with a long note in measure 44. The third staff (treble clef) contains a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The fourth staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. The fifth staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with quarter and eighth notes. The score ends with a double bar line at the end of measure 46.

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