

Sneaking on the Housetops

Ryan Meeboer

Instrumentation:

Flute - 8

Oboe - 2

Bb Clarinet - 8

B♭ Bass Clarinet - 1

E♭ Alto Saxophone - 6

B♭ Tenor Saxophone - 3

E♭ Baritone Saxophone - 1

B♭ Trumpet - 6

F Horn - 2

Trombone, Baritone, Bassoon - 6

Baritone Treble Clef - 2

Tuba - 2

String Bass - 1

Bells - 1

Snare Drum, Bass Drum - 2

Crash Cymbals, Cabasa, Wood Block, Tambourine - 4

PREVIEW ONLY

Sneaking on the Housetops

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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. On top of that, many of the dynamic markings reflect Santa being quiet as he tiptoes around the house. Make 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. Flutes, clarinet, trumpets, and alto saxes pass the main melody around throughout the remainder of the piece, as well as all getting the chance to play the light, fun background to the main melody. The low brass and winds have the chance 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. Even the woodblock gets a moment, as Santa is up on the housetop with a 'click click click' at measure 39.

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, where the rhythm is held off to leave room for two bass drum hits.

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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DIFFICULTY RATING: GRADE 0.5
Concert Band

SNEAKING ON THE HOUSETOPS

Ryan Meeboer

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

3

4

5

6

Flute *f*

Oboe *f*

B♭ Clarinet *f*

B♭ Bass Clarinet *f*

E♭ Alto Saxophone *f* div.

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *f*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone *f*

B♭ Trumpet *f*

F Horn *f*

Trombone
Baritone
Bassoon *f*

Tuba *f*

Bells *f*

Snare Drum
Bass Drum *f*

Crash Cymbals
Cabasa
Wood Block
Tambourine *f* Crash Cym.

7

8

9

10

11

12

rit.

Lively ♩ = 140

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn

Bari

Bsn

Tuba

Bells

S.D.

B.D.

C.C.

Cab

W.B.

Tamb

The musical score is arranged in a grand staff format, with each instrument on its own line. The woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone) and brass (Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone Saxophone, Bass Trombone, Tuba) sections are primarily melodic and harmonic in nature. The saxophones play a prominent role in the later measures, with the Alto Saxophone featuring a 'div.' (divisi) section. The percussion section includes Snare Drum (S.D.), Bass Drum (B.D.), Conga (C.C.), Cabasa (Cab), Water Drum (W.B.), and Tambourine (Tamb.). The score uses various dynamic markings such as *rit.* (ritardando), *p* (piano), and *f* (forte) to indicate changes in volume and mood. The tempo is marked as 'Lively' with a quarter note equal to 140 beats per minute.

PREVIEW ONLY

13

14

15

16

17

18

Fl *mf*

Ob

Cl *mf*

B Cl *mf*

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt *mf*

Hn

Trbn *mf*
Baritone only

Bari

Bsn *mf*

Tuba

Bells

S.D.

B.D.

C.C. Cabasa

Cab

W.B.

Tamb *mf*

PREVIEW ONLY

19

20

21

22

23

24

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Cab

W.B.
Tamb

mf

a2

8

mf

mf

mf

tutti

mf

mf

mf

Tamb.

25

26

27

28

29

30

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Cab

W.B.
Tamb

p

p

div.
p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

on rim
p

PREVIEW ONLY

31

32

33

34

35

36

This musical score covers measures 31 through 36. The instrumentation includes:

- Flute (Fl):** Treble clef, playing eighth and quarter notes.
- Oboe (Ob):** Treble clef, playing eighth and quarter notes.
- Clarinet (Cl):** Treble clef, playing eighth notes and chords.
- Bass Clarinet (B Cl):** Treble clef, playing eighth notes.
- Alto Saxophone (A Sax):** Treble clef, mostly silent.
- Tenor Saxophone (T Sax):** Treble clef, playing eighth notes.
- Bass Saxophone (B Sax):** Treble clef, playing eighth notes.
- Trumpet (Tpt):** Treble clef, playing eighth notes.
- Horn (Hn):** Treble clef, playing eighth notes.
- Trumpet/Bass Trombone/Bass Saxophone (Trbn Bari Bsn):** Bass clef, playing eighth notes.
- Tuba:** Bass clef, playing eighth notes.
- Bells:** Treble clef, playing eighth notes.
- Snare Drum (S.D.):** Snare notation, playing eighth notes.
- Bass Drum (B.D.):** Bass notation, playing eighth notes.
- Cymbal (C.C.):** Cymbal notation, mostly silent.
- Tambourine (W.B. Tamb):** Tambourine notation, mostly silent.

Measures 31-35 contain the main melodic and harmonic material. Measure 36 features a dynamic shift to *f* (forte) for most instruments, with specific instructions for the Snare Drum (*f* on snare head) and Bass Drum (*f*).

PREVIEW ONLY

37

38

39

40

41

42

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn

Bari

Bsn

Tuba

Bells

S.D.

B.D.

C.C.

Cab

W.B.

Tamb

Tamb.

W.B.

f

PREVIEW ONLY

43

44

45

46

47

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Cab
W.B.

Tamb

Crash Cym.

choke

PREVIEW ONLY