



# Sunlight Dances

LEANDRE BENTON

## Instrumentation

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Full Score	1
Flute	8
Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)	2
B♭ Clarinet 1	6
B♭ Clarinet 2	6
Bass Clarinet	2
Alto Saxophone	5
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet 1	6
B♭ Trumpet 2	6
Horn in F	4
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon	6
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallets	2
Bell	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	3
Crash Cymbals, Tambourine, Suspended Cymbal	



## About the Composer

LeAndre Benton is an administrator at J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson ISD in Richardson, Texas. Before serving in the position as administrator, Mr. Benton was the Associate Director of Bands at J.J. Pearce High School where he served as an instructor of the marching band, conducted the Wind Symphony, assisted with other concert ensembles, and taught beginner classes within the Pearce cluster. Mr. Benton is a native of Longview, Texas, and a graduate of Longview High School. Mr. Benton was previously the Associate Director of Bands at Little Elm High School, in Little Elm, Texas, before joining Richardson ISD.

Mr. Benton earned his Bachelor of Music Education degree with certifications in both vocal and instrumental music (K-12) from Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, where he studied trombone under Dr. J. Mark Thompson, Andrew Eden, and conducting under Dr. Jeffrey C. Mathews. Mr. Benton, a trombonist and past member of the "Spirit of Northwestern" Marching Band, served as a trombone section leader, piccolo section leader, and drum major. Mr. Benton was also a member of the Northwestern State University's Wind Ensemble, University Jazz Orchestra, University Men's Chorus, Trombone Choir, and Tuba & Euphonium Ensemble. Mr. Benton also holds a Master of Education Administration degree from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

Mr. Benton is an active composer (C. Alan Publications and Carl Fischer Music), arranger, and trombonist in the DFW area, performing recently in the Metropolitan Winds of Little Elm. He also serves as an adjudicator, band clinician, a summer camp conductor, and drum major instructor. In addition to music, he is also an NCAA Women's Basketball Official, a former Texas High School Basketball Official, a member of the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, International Trombone Association, and a Gamma Rho alumni of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity. Mr. Benton was selected twice by the UIL to officiate in the 2015 and 2016 Girls State Basketball Tournament, and the AAU Nationals in Las Vegas, Nevada. He has completed the 2nd edition of his fundamental studies book for band entitled "The Daily Regiment." Mr. Benton enjoys officiating, traveling, composing music, and playing with his spunky cockapoo, Loda.

## Sunlight Dances

"Sunlight Dances" is an energy-filled young band work that celebrates the vibrancy and contrasts of a sunlit day through music. Set in the key of E-flat major, the piece unfolds in three distinct sections, each capturing a different facet of sunlight's influence on our world.

The composition opens with a lively and spirited introduction, setting a jubilant tone with bright, dancing rhythms and shimmering melodies. This section is characterized by its buoyant tempo and infectious energy, reflecting the playful nature of sunlight as it plays upon the landscape. The Brass and Woodwinds engage in a spirited dialogue, while the Percussion section provides a dynamic foundation, driving the music forward with an invigorating sense of momentum.

As the piece progresses, it transitions into a more somber yet lyrical middle section. Here, the mood shifts to one of introspective reflection, mirroring the gentle, diffused light of a midday sun obscured by clouds. Closing, "Sunlight Dances" brings a return to high-spirited exuberance. The music bursts forth with renewed vitality, incorporating playful and energetic themes that celebrate the sun's radiant return. The Percussion section takes center stage here, adding vibrant accents and rhythmic complexity that energize the entire ensemble.

"Sunlight Dances" is dedicated to one of my best friends and an outstanding band director, Mr. Kevin Cantu.



Wingert-Jones Publications

Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

# Sunlight Dances

*Dedicated to one of my best friends, Mr. Kevin Cantu*

LeANDRE BENTON  
(ASCAP)

Energetic  $\text{♩} = 132$

4

*f*

Flute

Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Energetic  $\text{♩} = 132$

4

*f*

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

Horn in F

Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon

Timpani (B♭, E♭)

Mallets (Bells)

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Tom-tom, Suspended Cymbal)

*f*

Crash Cymbals

*f*

1 2 3 4 5



Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$  Cl. 1

B $\flat$  Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$  Tpt. 1

B $\flat$  Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn./  
Euph./  
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Preview Only  
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Fl.  
Ob.  
B♭ Cl. 1  
B♭ Cl. 2  
B. Cl.  
A. Sax.  
T. Sax.  
B. Sax.  
B♭ Tpt. 1  
B♭ Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn./Euph./Bsn.  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Mal.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2

17

17

Preview Only  
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Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mp* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mp* *mf*

Hn. *mp* *mf*

Tbn./Euph./Bsn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Timp.

Mal. *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *p*

Sus. Cym.

20 21 22 23 24

25

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

25

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn./  
Euph./  
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2  
Cz. Cym.

25 26 27 28 29

32 *rit.*

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn./Euph./Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

*cresc.*

*f*

*dim.*

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

Sus. Cym.

