

Commissioned by Mark Schafer of Willson Professional Brass  
and dedicated to Roger Behrend

# In a Gentle Rain

From *The Willson Suite*

ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

## INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor	2 E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone/ Solo E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone (optional Solo E $\flat$ Bass Clarinet/ Solo E $\flat$ Contrabass Clarinet)	1 Piano
3 1st C Flute/Solo C Flute		1 Mallet Percussion (Marimba)
3 2nd C Flute		1 Timpani
1 1st Oboe/Solo Oboe		2 Percussion I (Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal)
1 2nd Oboe	3 1st B $\flat$ Trumpet/Solo B $\flat$ Trumpet (optional Flugelhorn/optional Soprano Saxophone)	1 Percussion II (Thundersheet, Pan)
3 1st B $\flat$ Clarinet/Solo B $\flat$ Clarinet	3 2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet	
3 2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet	3 3rd B $\flat$ Trumpet	
3 3rd B $\flat$ Clarinet	2 1st Horn in F/Solo French Horn	
1 E $\flat$ Alto Clarinet	2 2nd Horn in F	
2 B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	2 1st Trombone/Solo Trombone	
2 Bassoon/Solo Bassoon	2 2nd Trombone	
2 1st E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone/ Solo E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	2 Baritone/Solo Euphonium	
2 2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	1 Baritone Treble Clef/ Solo Baritone Treble Clef	
2 B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone/ Solo B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	4 Tuba/Solo Tuba (optional Solo Bassoon)	

### WORLD PARTS

Available for download from  
[www.alfred.com/worldparts](http://www.alfred.com/worldparts)

1st Horn in E $\flat$   
2nd Horn in E $\flat$   
1st Trombone in B $\flat$  Treble Clef  
2nd Trombone in B $\flat$  Treble Clef  
Tuba in E $\flat$  Treble Clef  
Tuba in B $\flat$  Treble Clef

## PROGRAM NOTES

The Willson Suite draws upon the forces of nature for its inspiration. Composed in 1997, the suite was commissioned by the Willson Professional Brass Company, world-renowned makers of quality euphoniums, tubas, and other professional brass instruments. The work is dedicated to Roger Behrend, one of the world's most accomplished euphonium soloists and a Willson artist.

"In a Gentle Rain," the second movement, explores the simple beauty of a spring or summer shower. The composer invites you to close your eyes and experience the soothing beginning of the rain, the gentle rumble of the thunder, and the quiet conclusion. If you listen closely, you can hear the final drops of water falling from the roof of the house.

The suite was first performed by Mr. Behrend with piano accompaniment during his tour of Japan in the spring of 1997. The work was premiered in its entirety in the fall of the same year by Mr. Behrend and the United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C.

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This edition of "In a Gentle Rain" includes solo parts for each wind instrument in the symphonic band. It is important to note the optional parts for several instruments. For example, if range is a concern for the bassoon, the soloist may use the optional bassoon solo notated on the tuba part. In addition, the soloist may alternate between the two parts as abilities allow.

"In a Gentle Rain" begins with a rain effect created by the snapping of fingers. Although a single finger snap does not evoke images of rain, the mass effect is mesmerizing. The effect should begin on one side of the band and then sweep across the entire ensemble. The thundersheet effect should be gentle to simulate distant thunder. The rain effect at the end of the movement should gradually dissipate, giving way to a single pan. The pan effect should gradually slow down, simulating the last drops of rain from the roof of a house.

I hope you, your soloist, and your ensemble find "In a Gentle Rain" to be a very rewarding experience. Best wishes for a wonderful performance!

*Robert W. Smith*

CONDUCTOR

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# IN A GENTLE RAIN

from *The Willson Suite*

By ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

\* Rain (gentle finger snaps) 3 Gently  $J = 64$   
(rain continues to bar 15) 7

Solo

C Flutes 1 2

Oboes 1 2

B♭ Clarinets 1 2 3

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

E♭ Alto Saxophones 1 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

\* Rain (gentle finger snaps) 3 Gently  $J = 64$   
(rain continues to bar 15) 7

B♭ Trumpets 1 2 3

Horns in F 1 2

Trombones 1 2

Baritone

Tuba

Mallet Percussion (Marimba)

Timpani

Percussion I (Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal)

Percussion II (Thundersheet, Pan)

Piano

Wind Chimes

Gentle Thunder w/thundersheet

Random to 15

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

\* Beginning with one side of the band, gentle finger snaps should begin, lightly and sparse at first, sweeping across the band to create the effect of a gentle rain overtaking the stage. The effect should continue to bar 15, then fade out, giving way to the woodwind accompaniment.



Musical score for Conductor - 3, measures 17-23. The score includes parts for Solo, Fls. (1 and 2), Obs. (1 and 2), Cls. (2 and 3), A. Cl., B. Cl., Bsn., A. Saxs. (1 and 2), T. Sax., Bar. Sax., Tpts. (2 and 3), Hns. (1 and 2), Tbens. (1 and 2), Bar., Tuba, Mlt. Perc., Timp., Perc. I, Perc. II, and Pno. The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *mf* and *p*. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score. The page number "17" is visible at the bottom left of the score area.





40 Gently Gradually begin rain effect

Solo

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 1 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxs. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

40 Gently Gradually begin rain effect

Tpts. 1 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. mp

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Pno.

48

Solo

Fls. 1 2

Obs. 1 2

Cls. 2 3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxs. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Rain effect

48

Tpts. 2 3

Hns. 1 2

Tbns. 1 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Pno.

Rain effect

Wind Chimes

\*\* Water dripping on pan (decresc. to end)

47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

\*\* Gently "thump" pan as if water is dripping off the roof. Decrescendo and thin out to the final drop of rain.