

At First Light

Ryan Meeboer (b. 1978)

Flute - 8
Oboe - 2
Bb Clarinet 1 - 4
Bb Clarinet 2 - 4
Bb Bass Clarinet - 2
Eb Alto Saxophone 1 - 2
Eb Alto Saxophone 2 - 2
Bb Tenor Saxophone - 2
Eb Baritone Saxophone - 1
Bb Trumpet 1 - 2
Bb Trumpet 2 - 2
F Horn - 2
Trombone, Bassoon - 6
Baritone - 2
Baritone Treble Clef - 1
Tuba - 2
String Bass - 1
Bells - 1
Bass Drum - 1
Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal - 2

EIGHTH NOTE PUBLICATIONS

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At First Light is a lyrical composition and is as calming as a morning sunrise. Written in AABA form, the piece evolves from a quiet and peaceful opening to an exuberant ending, as the sun fully illuminates the horizon.

Measures 5-12 introduce the main melody using a trumpet solo accompanied by a clarinet choir. Be sure when the rest of the ensemble enters at measure 13 they don't come in too strong. The mere addition of instruments will create the feeling of growth all on its own.

In the B section, the suspended cymbal is used to help create motion. Make sure this is struck lightly - just enough that it can be heard.

The final measures of the piece are meant to be dramatic. The director is to use their discretion as to how much they want their ensemble to draw out the final measures, including the pause following the fermata.

When performing the final note, practice it enough that performers can come in softly and with the confidence that it will be played with clear tone.

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 over 300 pieces for concert band, jazz band and small ensembles. His pieces are found on festival and contest lists throughout Canada and the USA. As a performer he has had experience in groups including concert and stage band, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duet and the Hamilton, Ontario 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 where he achieved 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.*

ryan.meeboer@enpmusic.com

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