Grade 2

Canon for Christmas

Based upon Canon in D

Larry Clark

INSTRUMENTATION

YPS148

Full Score ........................................... 1
Flute ................................................... 8
Oboe (Opt. Flute 2) ................................. 2
Clarinet 1 in B♭ ...................................... 4
Clarinet 2 in B♭ ...................................... 4
Bass Clarinet in B♭ ................................. 2
Bassoon ............................................... 2
Alto Saxophone in E♭ .............................. 5
Tenor Saxophone in B♭ ............................ 2
Baritone Saxophone in E♭ ...................... 2
Trumpet 1 in B♭ ..................................... 4
Trumpet 2 in B♭ ..................................... 4
Horn in F ............................................. 4
Trombone .......................................... 6
Euphonium .......................................... 3
Euphonium T.C. in B♭ ............................. 2
Tuba ................................................... 3
Mallet Percussion ................................. 1
Bells .................................................... 1
Timpani ............................................. 2
Percussion 1 ....................................... 2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 2 ....................................... 4
Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Sleigh Bells, Wind Chimes
About the Composition

Each year I try to find new and interesting ways to write arrangements that can be used for holiday concerts. Johann Pachelbel’s Canon in D has long been one of the most popular “classical” pieces and has already been connected to Christmas through various settings of the piece. I endeavored this year to arrange the canon by combining it with popular Christmas carols as part of the fabric of the piece. Carols such as *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* and *The First Noel* fit nicely with the harmonic progression of Pachelbel’s canon, and this approach became the genesis of the arrangement.

However, I took this one step further by composing different versions of the piece. One version of the piece is for band alone; another arrangement allows for the inclusion of an SATB chorus (published by Carl Fischer Music, catalog number CM9401). Additionally, I wrote Christmas-type lyrics to go with the choral arrangement:

Christmas is a time for giving,
It’s a special time worth living,
Family friends and hearts are willing,
Sharing love and stocking filling.

Hark, the herald angels singing,
Trumpets sound and bells are ringing,
Celebrate this holy season,
When He came, this is the reason.

On Christmas we celebrate
good cheer,
To last throughout the year,
With ones we hold so dear.
Merry Christmas.

These words should add to the holiday presentation of the canon mixed with the carols.

It has been my pleasure to have the opportunity to write this piece. I hope you and your students enjoy it and find it useful for your program.

—Larry Clark
Lakeland, FL 2015

About the Composer

Music by Larry Clark (b. 1963) is some of the most popular and most performed by concert bands and string orchestras of all ability levels. Larry is equally adept at writing music for beginners as he is for high school and college ensembles. His music is tuneful, contains a fresh harmonic perspective, is well scored and stretches the musicianship of the performers. He prides himself on producing music that is not only intriguing to performers and audiences alike but that contains a playability that comes from a keen understanding of the technical difficulties inherent in all instruments. His pieces have been performed internationally and appear on numerous contest/festival performance required music lists. He is an ASCAP award-winning composer, has over 200 publications in print and is in demand to write commissions for bands and orchestras across the country.

Besides his abilities as a composer Larry serves as Vice President, Editor-in-Chief for Carl Fischer Music. In this capacity he oversees all publications in all genres for this esteemed music publisher. However, his main focus is on selecting, editing and producing concert band and string orchestra music for the company. He travels the world representing Carl Fischer Music doing clinic/workshops and guest conducting appearances. His background as a former middle school and university band director at Syracuse University, combined with his composing and editing, have placed Larry at the forefront of music for school ensembles. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Florida State University and Masters Degrees in Conducting and Composition from James Madison University in Virginia. For more information about the music of Larry Clark, visit his website www.larryclarkmusic.com.