

# UKRAINIAN BELL CAROL

Setting by ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

## INSTRUMENTATION

1	Conductor	2	E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	1	Mallet Percussion I (Bells)
10	C Flute	8	B $\flat$ Trumpet	1	Mallet Percussion II (Vibes)
2	Oboe	4	Horn in F	1	Mallet Percussion III (Chimes)
10	B $\flat$ Clarinet	6	Trombone/Baritone/ Bassoon	1	Timpani
2	B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	2	Baritone Treble Clef	1	Sleigh Bells
6	E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	4	Tuba	2	Suspended Cymbal/ Wind Chimes
4	B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone				

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This setting of “Ukrainian Bell Carol” was arranged to feature the percussion section on mallet instruments. Although scored for bells, vibraphone, and chimes, each of the mallet parts can be played on bells if vibes and chimes are not available. To complement the mallets, the winds contribute to the effect through the use of jingle bells. I suggest procuring the standard ornamental type of bells that are readily available during the holiday season.

Although marked with a metronome setting of 132, this arrangement works well anywhere between 112 and 144 beats per minute. The interpretation should be adjusted to fit the desired tempo. As the band develops, I suggest moving the tempo to the brisk side and conducting in one. This serves as an excellent opportunity to introduce compound meter.

Feel free to adjust dynamic markings throughout to ensure proper balance between the winds and percussion. In addition, feel free to double any of the percussion parts if more players and instruments are available.

In lieu of a ritardando, I chose to introduce the concept of mixed meter in measure 45. The 4/4 time signature gives the illusion of the ritardando while providing the opportunity to teach the beginnings of mixed meter.

Measure 47 should be as bold and brilliant as possible. Again, feel free to adjust the dynamic markings to ensure balance between the winds and percussion. The fading section at measure 65 should fade evenly over the three repetitions. Please note the accents notated at measure 69. They should be approached as bell tones. The ritardando in measures 69-70 is optional.

The three quarter notes in the mallet/jingle bells in measure 71 should be on cue. The final measure should fade into the distance.

I hope you and your students find “Ukrainian Bell Carol” to be a musically and educationally rewarding experience. Best wishes for a great performance and a happy holiday season..

*Robert W. Smith*

**Please note:** Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order. We hope this will not present any difficulty for you in distributing the parts. Thank you for your understanding.

