

DRUMMER'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

Words and Music by KATHERINE DAVIS,
HENRY ONORATI and HARRY SIMEONE
Arranged by ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor	2 E \flat Baritone Saxophone	1 Mallet Percussion (Bells)
10 C Flute	8 B \flat Trumpet	1 Timpani
2 Oboe	4 Horn in F	2 Percussion I (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Conga Drums/ Optional Toms)
10 B \flat Clarinet	6 Trombone/Baritone/ Bassoon	2 Percussion II (Crash Cymbal, Triangle)
2 B \flat Bass Clarinet	2 Baritone Treble Clef	
6 E \flat Alto Saxophone	4 Tuba	
4 B \flat Tenor Saxophone		

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

“Drummer’s Christmas Carol” is based on the old English carol titled “The Little Drummer Boy.” It is designed as an energetic concert feature for a holiday performance.

The opening statement should be as energetic as possible. Be sure to give careful attention to the interaction in the woodwind lines. Depending on your instrumentation, you may wish to adjust the dynamic markings to create the best possible balance between the flutes/clarinets/alto sax and the oboe/tenor sax. If an oboe is not present, the part may be performed as an optional third flute part.

The melodic line at measure 14 (trumpets/horns) should be as smooth and flowing as possible. Be very careful not to allow the solo snare to dominate. The snare should be balanced within the interaction between the flutes and clarinets. The drone effects in the oboe and tenor sax may require dynamic adjustment for presence.

The second statement of the melody at measure 41 features a countermelodic line in the trombones and oboe. I suggest isolating this line in context with the upper woodwind/percussion ostinato to ensure comfort and presence. The bass line should not be too heavy.

The interaction and intensity begins to fade in measure 59. The melody and upper woodwind ostinato should decrescendo, allowing the subito forte in measure 63 to serve as a surprising burst of energy.

I hope you and your ensemble find “Drummer’s Christmas Carol” to be a rewarding musical experience. Best wishes for a great performance, and happy holidays!

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.

