



pastorale on greensleeves

PASTORALE ON GREENSLEEVES

Greensleeves, traditional English folk song

(Optional Vocal/SATB available with 19th C. William Dix lyrics: What Child Is This?)

Timing Length: 3:30-4:00

ORCHESTRATION

2 Flutes

2 Oboes (w/ solo)

(English Horn) (optional substitute for some Clarinet phrases)

2 Clarinets in Bb (w/ solo) (parts in A available)

2 Bassoons (w/ solo)

2 Horns in F (w/ solo) (Horns could be omitted if really needed, but beautiful countermelody)

Harp or keyboard synthesizer (or optional)

Organ (optional - score on request)

Violins I & II *divisi*

Viola *divisi*

Violoncellos *divisi*

Double Bass (extension optional)

Notes:

players per part at the discretion of the conductor

(minimum # players are shown for winds and brass) - balance as fits your needs

Vocal solos and chorus are completely optional - scores available on request.

Instrumental solos can be reassigned freely.

Optional start at m.3 instead of beginning.

Orchestration modifications upon request.

Finale *.musx* source upon request, and PDF parts upon request (later on IMSLP)

Program Notes:

I grew up playing carols each December on the family piano (from those 1950s-vintage tiny caroling booklets), and have been playing the same carols for over six decades. Contrary to the protestations "Don't mess with our beloved carols," I have always yearned for fresh harmonizations and inspirational arrangements. Thus the impetus for many improvisations throughout the years in concert and as a church organist. Now that I've retired (due to diplacusis hearing difficulties), I've begun expanding the ideas that I have collected over the years and typesetting the scores. Adding to my itch to create new arrangements was my month-long run as organist with the 39 Boston Pops Holiday Concerts in 2015, never tiring each day of the creative and exciting arrangements they perform.

This *Pastorale on Greensleeves* draws from harmonizations from an arrangement I wrote in 2001 with the William Dix lyrics for *What Child Is This* for Maria Ferrante, soprano, with piano and oboe, as recorded on the *Christmas Memories* CD. The *pastorale* passes the melody around throughout the orchestra. Harmonic progressions are further enriched by the unexpected creative side-effect benefits of my diplacusis pitch-shifting challenges.

This orchestration is dedicated to my long-time friend and colleague Jonathan Colby, who has been a mentor and champion for young instrumentalists over the decades.

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