

# Russian Christmas Music

ALFRED REED (1921–2005)  
Arranged by MICHAEL STORY

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## INSTRUMENTATION

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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Conductor                    | 4 Trombone                                      |
| 8 Flute                        | 2 Baritone                                      |
| 2 Oboe                         | 2 Baritone Treble Clef                          |
| 2 Bassoon                      | 4 Tuba                                          |
| 4 1st B $\flat$ Clarinet       | 3 Mallet Percussion<br>(Chimes/Bells/Xylophone) |
| 4 2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet       | 1 Timpani<br>(Tune: D, G, D)                    |
| 2 B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet      | 2 Percussion 1<br>(Crash Cymbals, Bass Drum)    |
| 5 E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone     | 2 Percussion 2<br>(Suspended Cymbal, Triangle)  |
| 2 B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone    |                                                 |
| 2 E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone |                                                 |
| 4 1st B $\flat$ Trumpet        |                                                 |
| 4 2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet        |                                                 |
| 4 F Horn                       |                                                 |

## WORLD PARTS

Available for download from  
[www.alfred.com/worldparts](http://www.alfred.com/worldparts)

- Horn in E $\flat$   
Trombone in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
Trombone in B $\flat$  Treble Clef  
Baritone in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
Tuba in E $\flat$  Bass Clef  
Tuba in E $\flat$  Treble Clef  
Tuba in B $\flat$  Bass Clef  
Tuba in B $\flat$  Treble Clef

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## PROGRAM NOTES

*Russian Christmas Music*, Alfred Reed's masterwork for band, was written in November, 1944, and premiered in December of that year in Denver, Colorado. The composer utilized the ancient Russian carol, "Carol of the Little Russian Children," together with a lot of original material and some motivic elements from the liturgical music of the Eastern Orthodox Church, in writing the piece. Although this arrangement for young band is much shorter than the original, it contains material from all four distinct sections of the piece, which the composer originally subtitled "Children's Carol," "Antiphonal Chant," "Village Song," and "Cathedral Chorus."

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement of *Russian Christmas Music* is designed for the second- and third-year band student. Although much shorter than the original, simplified, and scored for fewer instruments, my main goal was for this arrangement to maintain the integrity of Alfred Reed's score. In a couple of places, I have doubled the metronome marking, while augmenting the rhythms, allowing the students an easier-to-follow beat while still maintaining the "sound" of the original piece.

This arrangement is scored for four percussion parts utilizing six players. If a set of chimes is not available, that part may be played on the bells. If a large timpani is not available, all of the low Ds may be played an octave higher on a smaller drum.

In places where the tuba part is divided, I recommend each tubist choose the notes that he or she is most comfortable with.

The alto sax solo at measure 118 should be played in free and rubato manner.

I hope you find this arrangement of *Russian Christmas Music* to be an exciting musical experience!

*Michael Story*