

SIMPLE SONG

Ralph Hultgren

Duration: 2.55

Level: 1½

Program Notes:

“Why aren’t there more slow pieces in three four time?” Why indeed.

My colleague, Peter Francis, Conductor of the Queensland Youth Orchestra Wind Symphony, posed that question at a music teachers’ conference along with the challenge to me to write such a piece. I did – the next morning! Thanks Peter!

The music is slow and singing in style. It is plaintive and evocative in nature and it is simple – a Simple Song.

Rehearsal Notes:

Where possible, the phrases should be long and, if the players are mature enough, wedged so no 2 or 4 bar breaths are taken in unison.

Don’t allow the work to drag or rush, let it move comfortably at 84 beats per minute; a little more or a little less. A hint of *rubato* or consider an increase in tempo at 41 would be acceptable. Make music is my only real wish.

About the Composer:

Ralph Hultgren began his professional music career as a trumpet player, performing with the Central Band of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Australian Brass Choir and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. From 1979 until 1990, Mr. Hultgren was composer/arranger-in-residence for the Queensland Department of Education’s Instrumental Music Program, during which time he produced 185 works and established himself as a leader in the field of composition for young musicians. Mr. Hultgren is Head of Pre-Tertiary Studies at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University.

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