

HARVESTING THE FIELDS OF RUSSIA

ELENA ROUSSANOVA

CONCERT BAND

SECOND EDITION



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PROGRAM NOTES

HARVESTING THE FIELDS OF RUSSIA is a programmatic piece that musically depicts the scene of an early autumn harvest of the wheat fields across Russia in the nineteenth century. The first theme at measure 3 and measure 58 depicts many people cutting the wheat, swinging scythes. Through measure 31 the workers tire and their spirits lower. A woman can be heard singing a Russian folk song. She is later joined in chorus by all the workers. After the completion of a successful harvest, their spirits rise as they walk home to their houses at sunset.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

The quarter-note accompaniment figures before and during the melodies at measure 3 and measure 58 need to be long with very little space between them and played with a good direction of musical line. The melodies at measure 3 and measure 58 need to be warm and lyrically expressive. The middle section, starting at measure 31, is rubato music with contrasting tone colors that alternate between soloist/tutti and woodwind/brass choirs. The culmination of the piece, measure 66, should be very expressive with full tutti. The band should play with a full, warm, rich homogenized sound before relaxing into the light coda, measure 80 (leggiero style), reminiscent of Percy Grainger's music. I hope you enjoy HARVESTING THE FIELDS OF RUSSIA.

Elena Roussanova

CONCERT BAND

INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flute in C (Piccolo)
Oboe
3 Clarinet in B ♭
Alto Clarinet in E ♭
Bass Clarinet in B ♭
Bassoon
2 Alto Saxophone in E ♭
Tenor Saxophone in B ♭
Baritone Saxophone in E ♭
3 Trumpet in B ♭
2 Horn in F
3 Trombone
Baritone
Tuba
Mallets (Bells, Marimba,
Chimes, Xylophone)
Timpani/Chimes
Percussion (Bell Tree,
Triangle, Suspended Cymbal,
Crash Cymbals,
Tom-Tom, Bass Drum)

© "Mowers at harvest time" by Grigoriy Myasoyedov (front cover)