

A Little Poem for Concert Band

Duration: about 5 minutes 30 seconds
Theme from 2004; composed March 9-31, 2015

In 1990 I wrote several works for my friend Fred Robinson who was the composer/arranger at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Among these was a work for jazz band, *The Popular Music of Planet X* in three "Books". The idea was the rather whimsical one that somewhere among the myriad planets there could be a civilization where the prime incentive for the music industry was *not mercenary*. Clearly such a planet must be far far away. The Air Force didn't seem to appreciate the effort, and the score and parts were returned. (When you bomb with the Air Force....you *REALLY BOMB!*)

In 2004 I made many major alterations to the old *PMPX*, and had a brand new version, including *A Little Poem*. This remained unperformed, so in 2015 I arranged it for concert band. Finally, in 2023 I converted most of the band *PMPX* to a piano quintet, and then to orchestra as *Symphony No. 1: Popular Music of Planet X*. I now offer the four band movements of *PMPX* only as individual pieces, including this work.

Performance Notes

This work uses one musician per part, with no sections, such as for clarinets or flutes. The String Bass part is intended for an acoustic bass. An electric bass may not be used in its stead. If an electronic keyboard is used instead of an acoustic piano, it should have a concert grand piano sound. However, the preference is strongly in favor of a real piano. The second alto saxophone has only a few measures of music, and in a pinch his part can be played by clarinets. Accidentals hold through the measure and not beyond. This is a C score with the usual transpositions in the parts.

Cover; Neem Karoli Baba with two devotees.

Bill Robinson

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