

# Christmas Stars

(The First Noel, Toyland, The Holly and the Ivy Greensleeves, Silent Night)

Arranged by LARRY CLARK

## Instrumentation



#### About the Composer

Music by Larry Clark (b. 1963) is some of the most popular and most performed by concert bands and string orchestras of all ability levels. Larry is equally adept at writing music for beginners as he is for high school and college ensembles. His music is tuneful, contains a fresh harmonic perspective, is well scored and stretches the musicianship of the performers. He prides himself on producing music that is not only intriguing to performers and audiences alike but that contains a playability that comes from a keen understanding of the technical difficulties inherent in all instruments. His pieces have been performed internationally and appear on numerous contest/festival performance required music lists. He is an ASCAP award-winning composer, has over 300 publications in print and is in demand to write commissions for bands and orchestras across the country.

In addition to his abilities as a composer, Larry is the founder and President of Excelcia Music Publishing. His new company will focus on educational music for band, choral and orchestra along with related methods and books. Prior to Larry starting his own publishing company, he served for over eighteen years as Vice President, Editor-in-Chief for Carl Fischer Music, and before that, as Instrumental Music Editor for Warner Bros. Publications. Larry travels the world presenting clinics/workshops and guest conducting appearances. His background as a former middle school director and Director of Bands at Syracuse University, combined with his composing and editing, have placed Larry at the forefront of music for school ensembles. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from Florida State University and Masters Degrees in Conducting and Composition from James Madison University in Virginia. For more information about the music of Larry Clark, visit his website, larryclarkmusic.com.

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The star is an important part of the Christmas story, and in this arrangement, I have combined five famous carols that are all in ¾ time. The technical demands have been kept in check for beginning students, but it is a musical piece that will stretch the student's musicianship.

The piece begins with *The First Noel*, and then this carol is combined with the Victor Herbert classic *Toyland* as a counterline. The quodlibet continues with the addition of *The Holly and the Ivy* also heard over the top of the *Toyland* melody. This builds to a dramatic climax of *Greensleeves*, a return of The *First Noel* together with *Toyland* once again followed by a short coda with quotes from the ever popular *Silent Night*.

It has been my pleasure to have the opportunity to write this piece. I hope you and your students enjoy it and find it useful for your program.

-Larry Clark Lakeland, FL 2023







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