

PRELUDE ON KING'S WESTON

by Douglas Mears

based on the hymn tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Instrumentation

Flute
Oboe
English Horn
Clarinet in B^b
Bassoon
Horn in F
Suspended Cymbal
Harp
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

Notes

The elegant hymn tune “King’s Weston” by Ralph Vaughan Williams is the inspiration for this instrumental prelude scored for chamber orchestra.

Vaughan Williams composed “King’s Weston” for the hymn “At the name of Jesus,” and it was first published in a 1925 collection entitled *Songs of Praise*. The tune’s title refers to a stately manor house on the Avon River near Bristol, England, where Vaughan Williams completed work on one of his most famous compositions, “The Lark Ascending.” Like many of RVW’s treasured hymn tunes, the folk song quality of King’s Weston is marked by distinctive rhythmic patterns and a soaring climax in the final two lines.