

PRELUDE ON KING'S WESTON

by **Douglas Mears**

based on the hymn tune by **Ralph Vaughan Williams**

Instrumentation

Flute

Oboe

Harp (or piano)

Organ (and/or strings)

Notes

The elegant hymn tune “King’s Weston” by Ralph Vaughan Williams is the inspiration for this instrumental prelude. It is scored for flute, oboe, harp, and organ, but the flute and oboe parts are easily playable on other C instruments, the harp part may be played on piano, and the organ part may be replaced or doubled with a string ensemble.

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.