

*By the
Fireside
for
Concert
Band*

by
MICHAEL DRAPKIN



DRAPKIN MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

By The Fireside

For Concert Band

By Michael Drapkin

By The Fireside (*Oyfn Pripetshik*, in Yiddish) is based on a Yiddish song written by Russian-Jewish poet and composer Mark Markovich Warshawsky (1848 – 1907). He was born in Odessa, Ukraine and wrote songs which he shared with friends and family, were mostly shared orally, and were spread throughout the Jewish community of the Ukrainian region of the Russian Empire. They became adopted as folk songs. He eventually published his songs in a collection called *Yiddisher Volkslider* (Jewish People's Songs, Kiev, 1900), which was republished in Russia and in other countries. Ashkenazic (Eastern European) Jews took this song with them when they migrated to America, where it is well-known and considered to be a classic of the Yiddish folk song repertoire.

The song tells the story of a teacher ("rebbe") instructing his young students the Hebrew alphabet – the "aleph beys," and encouraging them to learn them and the Torah (the Old Testament). And, as is not unusual in songs from this area and culture, it has elements of sadness in it:

*When you grow older, children,
You will understand by yourselves,
How many tears lie in these letters,
And how much lament.
When you, children, will bear the Exile [Jewish Diaspora],
And will be exhausted,
May you derive strength from these letters,
Look in at them!*

Performance Time: 2:30

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By the Fireside

"Oyfn Prepichik" from *Suite of Old Yiddish Melodies*
Dedicated to and Premiered by the Colorado Wind Ensemble, David Kish, Artistic Director

Michael Drapkin

Moderato ♩=88

Solo

Flute 1 + 2 *mp* *mf*

Oboe 1 + 2

Bassoon 1 + 2

Clarinet in E \flat

Clarinet in B \flat 1 *One. p* *mp*

Clarinet in B \flat 2 + 3 *One. p* *mp*

Bass Clarinet *One. p* *mp*

Alto Saxophone 1 + 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet in B \flat 1

Trumpet in B \flat 2 + 3

Horn in F 1 + 2

Horn in F 3 + 4

Trombone 1 + 2

Bass Trombone

Baritone

Euphonium

Tuba

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

Cymbals

1. 17 2. B

Fl. 1 + 2

Ob. 1 + 2

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2 + 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2 + 3

Hn. 1 + 2

Hn. 3 + 4

Tbn. 1 + 2

B. Tbn.

Bar.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

B. D.

Cym.

mf

p

25

Fl. 1 + 2

Ob. 1 + 2

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2 + 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2 + 3

Hn. 1 + 2

Hn. 3 + 4

Tbn. 1 + 2

B. Tbn.

Bar.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

B. D.

Cym.