

# A Prayer Before Nightfall

## Composer's Notes

A Prayer Before Nightfall is intended to evoke the style of folk songs. When working on this piece, I imagined a gathering of a large group of people, friends and family. I imagined them all raising their voices in a kind of blessing of their fellowship. I could almost hear the words they were singing and often took my inspiration for the melodic and rhythmic elements from these ghostly voices.

The piece should be played legato with very few breaks. Moving lines should be heard at all times, and careful consideration should be given to the balance when solo lines are being presented. Students should be encouraged to really LISTEN to their sounds and produce a dark, warm tone. Students should also be encouraged to use vibrato whenever appropriate.



**Randall Standridge** was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended college at Arkansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education. During this time, he also studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor. Randall Standridge is currently the Director of Bands at Harrisburg Public Schools in northeast Arkansas, where he is in charge of band instruction for grades 6-12. He is also the director of United Vision Winterguard in Jonesboro, AR. He lives in Jonesboro, AR, and is in demand in the northeast Arkansas area as a composer, arranger, clinician, and designer.