

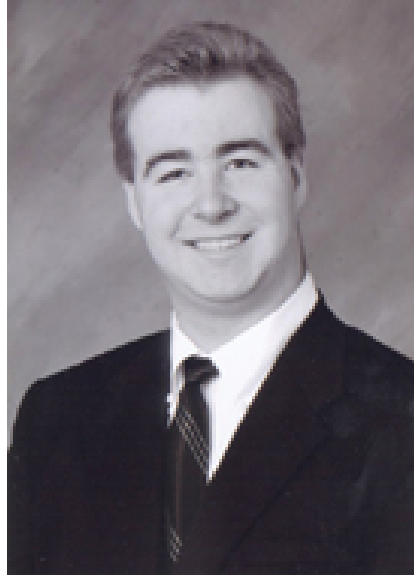
SUSSEX MUMMERS CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Percy Aldridge Grainger/ arranged by Matt Conaway

- This arrangement was written for the 2003-04 West Lafayette Junior High School Band, an ensemble with a remarkable clarinet section. At all times when the clarinet ensemble plays, it should be a rich, reedy sound with tremendous sound support from the bass clarinets in particular.
- This piece represents the ultimate challenge in legato articulation – there should never be an accented note in this transcription. This has always presented a tremendous problem for our trombone players. We had success when I asked them to rehearse the entire piece without articulating a single note. It can sound hideous because of the glissandi, but they gain a great understanding of how it feels to play connected notes like the valved and keyed instruments.
- Be very careful with the treatment of the melody throughout. The complete melody is stated in the Clarinet 1 / Oboe part from the beginning through m. 21. Take some time with your students and follow where this melody occurs in the second half of the arrangement – Grainger loved to give important melodic lines to the inner voices.
- All percussion parts are optional in this transcription – when those parts are played, they must remain purely in the background. Suspended cymbal rolls should support a crescendo, not provide it.
- This transcription was made from Grainger's 1911 piano setting of the tune. His notes on the transcription read as follows: *The tune was noted by Miss Lucy E. Broadwood at Lyne, near Horsham (Sussex), in 1880 and 1881 from the singing of Christmas Mummings called "Tipteers" or "Tipteerers" during their play of "St. George, the Turk, and the seven champions of Christendom.*
- If you plan to play more of Grainger's works, I would strongly recommend you pick up a copy of *Country Gardens and Other Works for Piano* edited by Joseph Smith (Dover 0-486-42241-0). This collection of fifteen piano arrangements gives tremendous insight on Grainger's scoring, especially his techniques of burying a melody among multiple voices.

Thank you for working with this transcription – best of luck to you and your band!





Matt Conaway is the Director of Bands for the West Lafayette Community School Corporation in West Lafayette, Indiana. Originally from Woodhaven, Michigan, Conaway completed his undergraduate degree at Indiana University-Bloomington, earning his Bachelor of Music Education-Teaching Area degree with distinction. Following graduation, he served as the Graduate Assistant Director with the Purdue University Bands. In that capacity, he served as an assistant with the "All-American" Marching Band and the concert bands. In addition, he served as a director of the "Gold and Black Sound" women's basketball pep band.

Conaway is currently on the board of directors for the Indiana University Alumni Band and was recently elected to the state board of the Indiana State School Music Association. He is a member of MENC, Indiana Bandmasters Association, Indiana Music Educators Association and Tau Beta Sigma. Matt is also active with the Lafayette Citizens Band and Lafayette Civic Theatre. He has over 150 arrangements and compositions to his credit, including works for the Bloomington "Pops" Orchestra, Indiana University, Purdue athletic bands and several high school and university ensembles in the Midwest.