

# *Love Unspoken* (from *The Merry Widow*)

'FRANZ LEHÁR, ARR. HUGH LEVEY



## **WIND QUINTET**

SCORE & PARTS

# *Love Unspoken from The Merry Widow*

FRANZ LEHÁR

The operetta Merry Widow (Die lustige Witwe) is undoubtedly the most popular and well-known work by Austro-Hungarian composer Franz Lehár. Lehár's father was a bandmaster in the army and encouraged his son's violin studies at the Prague Conservatory. While studying in Prague one of his teachers, Antonín Dvořák, advised him to focus on composition rather than violin but he bowed to parental pressure and continued with the latter. Lehár subsequently followed his father into the army as his assistant bandmaster, before moving to become a bandmaster in his own right two years later. In 1902 at the age of 32, he finally left military service to concentrate on a conducting and composing career.

The Merry Widow was composed in 1905 and became an immediate success. It tells the story of a rich widow, for whom others try to find a suitable husband. Love Unspoken is a duet between Anna (the widow) and Count Danilo where they start off being coy with each other, before embracing and dancing.

This Wind Quintet version begins with a beautiful duet between the oboe and bassoon. In the original score, it is a duet for violin and cello, but some arrangers inexplicably leave this out of their transcriptions. The flute and clarinet also have their turn playing the melody in this enjoyable arrangement.

Duration: 2 minutes 45 seconds approximately.

## **PERFORMANCE NOTES**

The tempo markings are just a guide, so use your own musical judgement. The opening oboe and bassoon duet, which also returns later, should be played musically and sensitively with rubato. The Piu Mosso at bar 18 should have a feel of one in a bar. The flute quavers from bar 66 mimic the harp arpeggios in the orchestral version so should be played delicately in the background, leaving the oboe to lead with the melody.

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# Merry Widow Waltz - Love Unspoken

Franz Lehár (Arr. Hugh Levey)

♩ = 100

Valse Moderato (con rubato)

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Horn in F

Bassoon

*pp*

*mp*

*pp*

*mp*

PREVIEW ONLY

6

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

12

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

PREVIEW ONLY

♩ = 116  
piu mosso

18

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

26

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

PREVIEW ONLY

34

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.