

Sour Grapes Rag

WILL B. MORRISON, ARR. HUGH LEVEY



CLARINET QUARTET

SCORE & PARTS

Sour Grapes Rag

WILL B. MORRISON

William Burdette Morrison (1874 to 1937) was a little known American composer of songs and piano music, who later became a publisher and arranger of others' work. His first known compositions date from 1898 but it was two years later that he started using syncopation in a series of Cakewalks for piano. He published his first rag, Scarecrow Rag, in 1911. Sour Grapes Rag was published a year later by his own publishing company, in Indianapolis.

PREVIEW ONLY

This rag follows the structure: AA BB A CC B, which is close to being the classic rag structure, although the final section would often bring new melodic material (D) rather than a restatement of an earlier theme. The B section is notable for some unusual offbeats in the left hand (bass clarinet in this arrangement). Rags often roll along without much light and shade, but the opening of the Trio section of Sour Grapes (C) is especially light and delicate. It deserves to be better known.

This arrangement for Clarinet Quartet remains faithful to the original piano version. It retains the original structure, melody, bass line and harmonies throughout. Some minor errors in the original published rag have been corrected, and it has been transposed down a tone to suit clarinets.

Duration: 3 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The original piano version has limited dynamic markings, so the arranger has added further dynamics and crescendos to increase the contrast and to enhance the performance. However, these are optional. When playing the accompanying 'piano left-hand' quavers (eighth notes), the bass clarinet should not be too heavy and should also observe the articulation accents which are in the original. The bass clarinet quavers in the A section are constant, so notes in brackets () can be omitted if players find it difficult to snatch a quick breath elsewhere.

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Sour Grapes Rag

Will B. Morrison (arr. Hugh Levey)

Musical score for Bb Clarinet and Bb Bass Clarinet parts, measures 1-4. The score includes dynamics like *f*, *mf*, and *f*³, and a large "PREVIEW ONLY" watermark.

8

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

f

f

f

f

3

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12

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

mf

mf

mf

mf

16

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

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20

1. 2. 3.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ B. Cl.

24

B♭ Cl. *mf*

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. *mf* 3

B♭ B. Cl. *mf*

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28

B♭ Cl. 3 *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

B♭ Cl. 3 *f*

B♭ B. Cl. *f*

