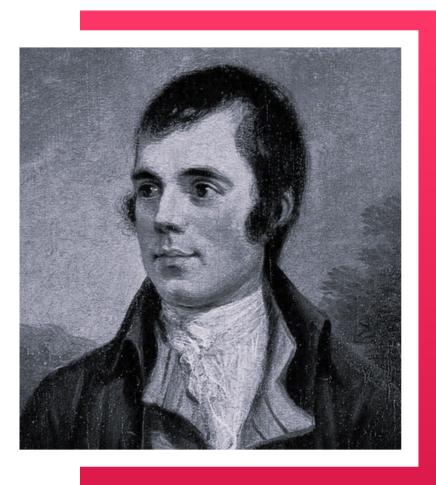


Robert Burns Suite Four Burns Songs

TRADITIONAL (HUGH LEVEY)





CLARINET QUARTET

SCORE & PARTS

Robert Burns Suite

TRADITIONAL (HUGH LEVEY)

The Robert Burns Suite for Clarinet Quartet by Hugh Levey is a four movement work, based on the well-known Burns' songs; My Love She's But a Lassie Yet, Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon, The Deil's Awa' Wi' the Exciseman, and Auld Lang Syne. Although Burns wrote the words of the songs, he set them to existing Scottish traditional tunes. This arrangement is for 3 Bb Clarinets and Bass Clarinet or 4 Bb Clarinets. Approximately 10 minutes in duration.

- 1. My Love She's But a Lassie Yet (Lauy Badinscoth's Ree)
- 2. Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon (The Caledonian Hunt's Delight)
- 3. The Deil's Awa' wi' the Exciseman
- 4. Auld Lang Syne (for recital or to accompany singing)

The movements can be played separately but are presented here as a suite, with a suggested order. Movement 1 begins with a stately 'classical' arrangement of My Love She's But a Lassie Yet, but as it develops the tune combines with another traditional melody, followed by some operatic quotations, and a fugue. It ends with an embellished restatement of the opening.

Movement 2 opens with gentle chords that accompany the simple yet beautiful melody of Ye Banks and Braes. In the middle section, the Bass Clarinet takes the lead with Clarinet 2 playing a counter melody. They are joined by the others playing the same two musical lines in canon with them. Clarinet 1 resumes the melody in verse 3 with slightly altered chordal accompaniment.

Movement 3 begins with Clarinet 1 and the Bass Clarinet playing the tune and bass line, almost exactly as they appeared in The Scots Musical Museum, published by James Johnson & Co between 1787 and 1803. The other instruments all get the opportunity to play the melodic line in the ensuing 5 verses, as the arrangement gets more complex and fun. The composer makes great use of the tritone; or "devil's interval" as it is often known because of its unsettling presence. However, in this arrangement it merely adds to the fun and excitement.

Movement 4 is a simple arrangement of Auld Lang Syne, in a key that is suitable to accompany solo or community singing. After a short introduction by Clarinet 3, Clarinet 1 and 2 play verse one accompanied by 'bagpipe' drones from the other two players. The final verse is in majestic four part harmony to bring a rousing end to this popular Burns song and the suite.

Cover images: (1) Robert Burns by Alexander Nasmyth, 1787, via Wikimedia Commons, (2) Clarinet, Yamaha Corporation, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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My Love She's But a Lassie Yet

Lady Badinscoth's Reel

Robert Burns

Trad. Scottish (arr. Hugh Levey)











Ye Banks and Braes o Bonnie Doon

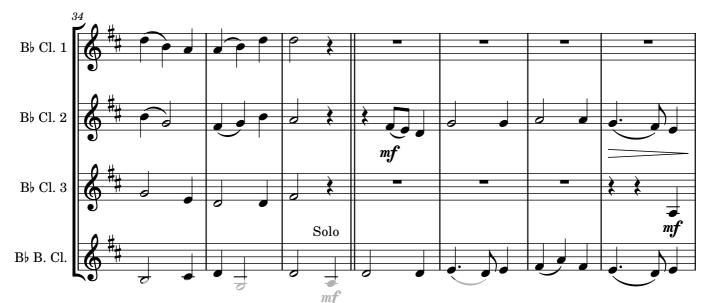
Lyrics: Robert Burns

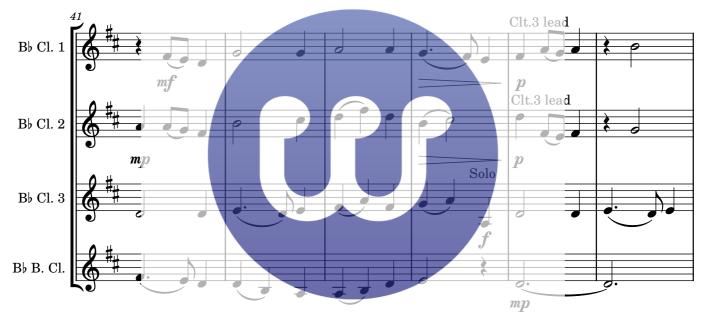
Traditional (arr. Hugh Levey)











The De'il's awa' wi' the Exciseman

Robert Burns

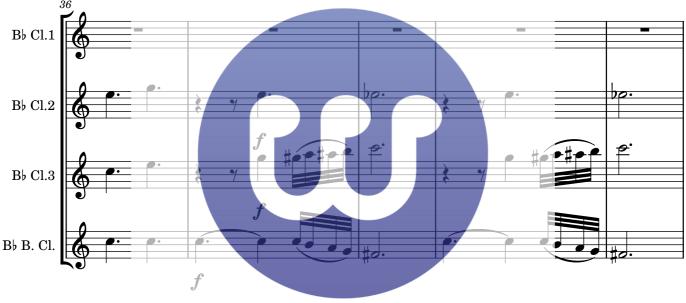
Traditional Scottish (arranged Hugh Levey)













Auld Lang Syne

Robert Burns

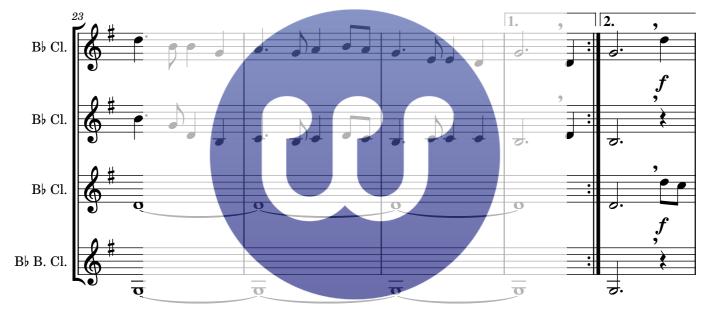
Instrumental or to accompany singing

Traditional arr. H. Levey













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