

ROBERT BURNS, ARR. HUGH LEVEY





SAXOPHONE QUARTET

SCORE & PARTS

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH (BURNS)

Since Robert Burns wrote the words of Auld Lang Syne in 1788, it has become a standard feature of New Year celebrations, Burns nights, and the closing stages of almost every ceilidh dance and wedding in Burns' native Scotland. Some of the words and phrases already existed before he crafted them into this simple masterpiece, as he himself acknowledged. Auld particularly before the years, but the one used for this Particularly large to the last few years the 18th Century.

Duration - 1' 48" for 2 verses. Approximately 5' for all five verses

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This arrangement by Scottish clarinety st, saxophonist, and arranger, Hugh Levey, is for saxophone quartet, consisting of Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Baritone saxes. It is in a suitable key for playing as a short recital piece or to accompany community or solo singing. For most occasions the arranger suggests playing it without any repeats, so that 2 differently arranged verses are performed has works for a recital piece or as accompaniment to how it is typically sung. In Scotland it would be verses 1 and 5, in other parts of the world verse 1 is often sung twice. If all 5 verses are sung, then bars 11 to 26 should be played 4 times. Note that there is a short introduction and voices should enter at the end of bar 10.

The work opens with 'bagpipe' drones played by the Alto and Baritone saxes, which accompany a short introduction by the Tenor. This is followed by Soprano and Alto playing the first verse and chorus, still accompanied by the bagpipe drones. The final verse and chorus are written in four part harmony to give a majestic ending to the piece.

Cover images: (1) Two Scotsmen clasping hands while drinking at a table. c.1839, British Museum, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons, (2) Saxophone, Yamaha Corporation, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

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LYRICS BY ROBERT BURNS

(Verse 1)

Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot.

And auld lang syne?

(Chorus)

For auld lang syne, my jo,

For auld lang syne,

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

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(Chorus)

For auld lang syne, my jo,

For auld lang syne,

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

(Charus

For auld lang syne, my jo,

For auld lang syne,

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

(Verse 2)

And surely ye'll be your pint-stown

And surely I'll be mine!

And we'll tak a cup o' kindness yet

For auld lang syne.

Narso

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!

etween us braid hae roar'd

And gie's a hand o' thine!

And we'll tak a right guid willy waught,

For auld lang syne.

(Chorus)

For auld lang syne, my jo,

For auld lang syne,

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

(Chorus

For auld lang syne, my jo,

For auld lang syne,

We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,

For auld lang syne.

(Verse 3)

We twa hae run about the braes

And pu'd the gowans fine;

But we've wander'd mony a weary foot

Sin auld lang syne.

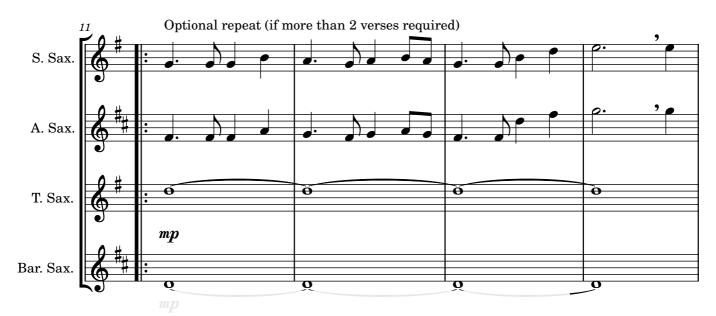
The poem is written in the Scots language, which was Robert Burns' native tongue. "Auld Lang Syne" can be translated literally as "old long since" but really means "times gone by". It recalls a time of friendship, kindness, and shared experiences with an old friend, as they raise a glass to each other in celebration of the fond memories. "My jo" in the chorus is sometimes sung as "my dear". It is a wistful song, which is why it is sung widely at New Year celebrations in many parts of the English (and Scottish) speaking world. Detailed translations of each verse can be found on the Internet.

Robert Burns

Instrumental or to accompany singing

Traditional arr. H. Levey





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