

Auld Lang Syne

TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH (BURNS) ARR. HUGH LEVEY



WIND QUINTET

SCORE & PARTS

Auld Lang Syne

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 Lang Syne has been sung to different melodies over the years, but the one used for this arrangement is the most common and well-known. It first appeared associated with Burns' lyrics in the last few years of the 18th Century.

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

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This wind quintet arrangement by Scottish clarinettist and arranger, Hugh Levey, 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. This 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 a short bassoon solo, accompanied by 'bagpipe' drones on the clarinet and French horn. Verse 1 follows, played by various duet combinations but 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. The drones move between clarinet, horn and bassoon throughout the introduction and verse 1, but each instrument also gets to play melodic material too.

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

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Auld Lang Syne

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.

(Verse 2)

And surely ye'll be your pint-stowp!
And surely I'll be mine!
And 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.

(Chorus)

For auld lang syne, my jo,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

(Verse 4)

We twa hae paidl'd i' the burn,
Frae mornin' sun till dine;
But seas between us braid hae roar'd
Sin 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 5)

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
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.

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.

Auld Lang Syne

Robert Burns

Instrumental or to accompany singing

Traditional arr. H. Levey

Andante Moderato

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

Horn in F

Bassoon

mf

p

Solo

mf

7

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

mf

mf

11 Optional repeat (if more than 2 verses required)

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.

mp

15

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

F Hn.

Bsn.