



**Music for Prague, 1968** is a programmatic work written by Czech-born composer Karel Husa for symphonic band and later transcribed for full orchestra, written shortly after the Soviet Union crushed the Prague Spring reform movement in Czechoslovakia in 1968. Karel Husa was sitting on the dock at his cottage in America at the time, listening to the BBC broadcast of the events on the radio. He was deeply moved and wrote *Music for Prague, 1968* to memorialize the events. This piece is a standard among wind ensemble repertoire.

The work was commissioned by Ithaca College and was premiered in January 1969 in Washington, D.C. at the Music Educators National Conference by Kenneth Snapp and the Ithaca College Concert Band.

As a piece of program music, the work is bound together by symbolisms and allusions. A theme from the 15th century song “Ye Warriors of Gog and His Law” is laced into the music, one symbolic of resistance and hope - the theme is common enough that any Czech would know the melody and its significance. The same theme appears with the same significance in Smetana’s *Má vlast* in both the “Blaník” and “Tabor” movements, as well as Josef Suk’s symphonic poem *Praga*.

The sound of bells are heard through the music, as Prague is also known as the “City of a Hundred Spires.” The trombones imitate air raid sirens and the oboes play sections of Morse code. The piccolo solo represents the bird calls, the symbol of freedom, which the composer himself wrote, “the city of Prague has seen only for moments during its thousand years of existence.” The third movement, “Interlude,” is not only played solely by the percussion section, but it also a palindrome, starting and ending with a snare roll.

## WIND ENSEMBLE

### Flute

Christopher Figueroa, Principal  
Jair Lopez, Piccolo  
Charlotte Ford  
Samantha Pham  
Ember Terry-Lorenzo  
Angela Bozeman  
Kayla Rios  
Leena Helo

### Oboe

Kayla De Guzman, Principal  
Brooke Braden  
Kaitlyn Dennis, English Horn

### Clarinet

Luis Becerra, Principal  
Derrick Williams  
Victoria Williams, Eb Clarinet  
Caitlin White  
Andrew Espinosa  
David Johnson  
Jehsica Castle

### Bass Clarinet

Christopher Yanez

### Bassoon

Vincent Garavito

### Alto Saxophone

Rowan Glover, Principal  
Madelyn Olsen

### Tenor Saxophone

Emma Boyd

### Baritone Saxophone

Emmett Borton

### Horn

Jezreel Sanchez, Principal  
Ryan Vickrey  
Alexa Velazco  
Diana Ramirez

### Cornet

Angel Rivas, Principal  
Paul Dempsey  
Denny Duran-Flores

### Trumpet

Ivan Rivas, Principal  
Zachary Martin

### Trombone

Ernest Lopez, Principal  
Michael Medina  
Jase Gooden, Bass Trombone

### Euphonium

Justin Pompa, Principal  
Paige Neuenswander

### Tuba

Brian Linares, Principal

### Harp

Emily Linlo

### String Bass

Ethan Lotrario

### Percussion

Emily Dominguez, Principal  
Quentin Jones  
Chloe Loken  
Matthew Tashima  
Jessica Ornaghi  
Aidan Conley