

Celtic Air

Glen Gillis

Celtic Air for solo saxophone was written in 2014 in memory of the composer's long-time friend, Garnet Hinthner, who sadly passed away shortly before Christmas day. Ironically Gillis conceived the mournful modal melody in his mind during Garnet's memorial service. Performing the simple plaintive line should be approached quasi-freely while the dynamics expressed accurately, creating an atmospheric effect. The grace notes are meant to emulate the technique of the chanter on a set of bagpipes but with the approach to maintain the lyrical style.

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PREVIEW ONLY

Glen Gillis is Professor of Music (saxophone, conducting, music education) at the University of Saskatchewan and remains active as a clinician/adjudicator for solo/ensemble festivals/workshops as well as conducting honour ensembles. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan, a Master of Music degree from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri. Dr. Gillis has written many articles and has presented at several international conferences such as the Midwest Clinic, WASBE, CBDNA, TMEA, and the British Forum for Ethnomusicology. Dr. Gillis is a *Conn-Selmer* Saxophone Artist/Clinician and has performed in North America, Europe, and China as well as over thirty conferences such as the World Saxophone Congresses, the North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial and Regional Conferences, and the Saxophone Symposium. He released *SaxSpectrum* (2009) and *SaxSpectrum 2* (2014) through MSR Classics (with a third album to be released in 2020) performing many of his compositions, all world premiere recordings. These compositions, plus his works for band, are published through *Eighth Note Publications*.

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DIFFICULTY RATING: Medium
Unaccompanied Saxophone

B \flat or E \flat Saxophone

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Mournful ♩ = 60-68

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Mournful' with a quarter note equal to 60-68 beats per minute. The piece begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The melody is characterized by flowing eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Measure numbers 1 through 36 are indicated above the notes. Dynamics vary throughout, including mezzo-forte (*mf*), forte (*f*), and pianissimo (*pp*). A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present above measure 34. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'PREVIEW ONLY' is centered across the middle of the page.