



KAVAL SVIRI

for Intermediate Trumpet Sextet

Arranged by:
ALEX J. LOPEZ

featuring the Original Music of:
PETAR LYONDEV

Kaval Sviri by Peter Lyondev (Original Unknown), arranged by Alex J. Lopez
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OVERVIEW

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This arrangement is based on Kaval Sviri ("A Kaval Plays"), a traditional Bulgarian folk song originally composed for women's choir by Petar Lyondev and famously performed by Ensemble Trakia on the Grammy Award-winning album *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*, Vol. II. Rooted in Bulgarian folklore, the piece captures the sound of the kaval—a wooden shepherd's flute central to rural musical tradition. Folk songs such as this one often feature complex rhythms, open drones, and modal harmonies that reflect the natural landscapes and communal rituals of Bulgaria.

This trumpet sextet arrangement preserves those distinct sonorities while reshaping them for the modern-day instrumental ensemble. It begins with a slow, dissonant introduction that mirrors the haunting quality of the original choral opening. Expressive markings and staggered entrances create a sense of suspended breath, preparing the listener for the unfolding energy. As the piece develops, rhythmic vitality and dynamic interplay between voices introduce the playfully energetic theme. The texture thickens through layered articulation, rhythmic ostinati, and bright fanfare-like gestures that highlight the brass timbre while staying true to the folk origins.

The arrangement divides the music into six parts, allowing performers to stagger their breathing and maintain continuous sound across longer phrases—a direct nod to the sustained, flowing lines of Bulgarian vocal music. Performance techniques such as Air passages (blowing through the instrument without pitch) add timbral variety, evoking the breathy quality of the kaval itself. Gradual tempo fluctuations (accel. and rit.) reflect the organic pacing of folk performance, where time bends to text and emotion.

The piece builds toward a climactic convergence of rhythm and harmony, before resolving with a sense of arrival—balancing both tension and release. This arrangement honors Lyondev's original vision while offering brass players a chance to explore folk-inspired phrasing, dissonant harmonic color, and the communal spirit that defines Bulgarian traditional song.

Air Technique

Blow air through the instrument while articulating with the tongue. No pitch should be produced.

Approximated tempo markings

Tempo markings are intended as flexible guides and may be approximated as best suited for the ensemble.

OVERVIEW

INSTRUMENTATION

BRASS

- Trumpet in B-flat 1 & 2
and as soloist (notated throughout)
- Trumpet in B-flat 3 & 4
- Trumpet in B-flat 5 & 6

performed by Ensemble Trakia on the Grammy Award-winning album "Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares, Vol. II"

Full Score

KAVAL SVIRI

for Intermediate Trumpet Sextet

Petar Lyondev

arr. Alex Lopez

♩ = 66
Expressivo

1 2 3 4 solo tutti 5 6

Trumpet in B♭

mf *f* *p* *mf*

3 4

Trumpet in B♭

mf *f* *p* *mf*

5 6

Trumpet in B♭

mf *f* *p* *mf*

7 8 solo tutti 9 10 11 12

Tpt. 1 2

f *p* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

3 4

Tpt. 3 4

f *p* *pp* *mp* *mf*

5 6

Tpt. 5 6

f *p* *ppp*

♩ = ca. 100-124

3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4 3/4



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