

# **In a Persian Market**

**Albert Ketelbey**

In a Persian Market, originally scored for full orchestra and men's chorus is perhaps Albert Ketelbey's most popular and enduring composition. Written in 1920, it is described as an Intermezzo-Scene, composed in his well used "Oriental Style". It survives in many versions, not least in reductions for solo piano and piano duet, which would have been very popular in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. The music describes a bustling market scene with passing camel drivers, beggars crying, "Baksheesh, baksheesh!", a beautiful princess, jugglers, snake charmers and the caliph himself. A cliched oriental market scene indeed! The listener can hardly fail to be drawn into the music's easy charm and the beautiful central melody describing the princess. This is a British light music classic; one of the best of its kind.

It is arranged primarily for my own quartet of two cornets, Bb baritone ( Bb tenorhorn), and BBb tuba. The 4<sup>th</sup> line is arguably better played on the euphonium. There are alternative parts for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines to allow for Eb and C brass players.

Certain cuts have been made to shorten the piece appropriately, particularly at the close as the camel train fades into the distance. Any attempt to sustain that scene with the limitations of a 4-part brass scoring would be ineffectual when compared with the original orchestral writing.

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