

STRING ORCHESTRA

A Grand Affair

R. Scott Whittington

FULL SCORE

INSTRUMENTATION

1-FULL SCORE
8-1st VIOLIN
8-2nd VIOLIN
3-VIOLA Treble Clef
(3rd Violin)
5-VIOLA
5-CELLO
5-DOUBLE BASS
1-PIANO
(for rehearsal only)

Grade 2

Duration: Approx. 3 Minutes

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PROGRAM NOTE

A Grand Affair is written in the timeless style of the classical tradition and is rich in melodic content and appealing rhythmic figures. Scored at a level 2, it is well-suited for developing orchestras. Parts are placed in the lower and more comfortable positions, allowing directors to focus on blend, intonation, and rhythmic accuracy. All sections are awarded interesting melodic material to perform as well as integral supportive parts. Moving parts are largely scale-based, placing them well within the capabilities of developing players.



ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Scott Whittington is a graduate of the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto, where he pursued studies in arranging, orchestration, conducting, and music pedagogy. Scott has been actively engaged in adult and youth music education for over 30 years, teaching both instrumental and vocal music. A frequently commissioned composer, he has written over 80 compositions including works for symphony orchestra, string orchestra, choir, jazz orchestra, popular songs, and the stage. His work has a contemporary and fresh feel to it, with a leaning toward strong melody and catchy rhythmic content. Scott has a particular interest in composing pieces for developing string players, and is a sought-after published composer throughout North America. Equally at home in the fields of classical music and jazz, he is also an avid piano/vocal interpreter of jazz standards and French and Italian popular vocal music. Scott is a member of the Canadian League of composers (CLC) and the Society of composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN).

REHEARSAL NOTE

A Grand Affair provides directors with a wonderful opportunity to introduce off-the-string bowing techniques. Measure 73 offers the concertmaster a chance to expand the fermata into a short solo cadenza if desired. A violin III (viola T.C.) part is included, as well as an optional rehearsal piano part.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Orchestral bowings and fingerings can be highly subjective and personal. The choices a string editor makes are designed to be pedagogically appropriate for specific grade levels while facilitating student musicality and honoring composer intent. The editorial additions in the following composition will provide guidance “right out of the box” for the non-string player and suggest some options for the advanced string specialist. Enjoy!

J. Cameron Law, String Editor

A Grand Affair

R. Scott Whittington (SOCAN)

Allegro $\text{♩} = 136$

Violin I *f-p*

Violin II *f-p*

Viola *f-p*

Violoncello *f-p*

Double Bass *f-p*

Piano *f-p*

7

Vln. I L1

Vln. II L1

Vla. L2

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

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14

1 2

16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

V V

4 H3 H3 4 V V 3

L2 V V

V V

V V

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

29 H3 33

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

35 H3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

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55

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

1/2 pos.

X4

1

64

63

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

div.

74 **Tempo primo** ♩ = 136
solo ad lib. **con spirito**

72

Vln. I *mf* tutti

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf* H3

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

Pno. *mf* solo violin

79

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *V V*

Vc. *V V*

Db.

Pno.

88

85

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

f

f

f

f

f

91

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

V

V

V

V

Selected String Orchestra Publications

ENSEMBLE WORKS

BARNES, JAMES

SO67 Yorkshire Ballad for String Orchestra (Grade 3)

Composed in the summer of 1984, Yorkshire Ballad was premiered at the Kansas Bandmasters Association Convention by Claude T. Smith and the Kansan Intercollegiate Band. Since its publication, it has become one of the composer's most popular works, and has been arranged for a variety of ensembles. The composer writes "I composed this little piece so that younger players would have the opportunity to play a piece that is more or less in the style of (Grainger's) Irish Tune from County Derry." Grade 2, ca. 3:40.

BLANCO, HEATHER GRIER

SO102 At The Farm (Grade 2)

At the Farm is a composition of intermediate level difficulty dedicated to the composer's grandfather, a life-long farmer. The first section is light and playful while the middle section is more legato. Each instrument plays the rhythm of at least one of the themes with attention given to development of dynamics and easy to follow bowings.

BURLEIGH, HENRY THACKER

Morales, Dion

SO161C Through Moanin' Pines (Grade 2)

Dion Morales arranged Through Moanin' Pines by Henry Thacker Burleigh allowing younger musicians to celebrate and perform music by a celebrated American composer. A masterful edition of this spiritual, soulful tune provides many opportunities for expression and discussion on the musical heritage of Burleigh and his work. Through three-part writing, legato bowing, pizzicato, and a broad palette of dynamics, your students will enjoy performing this beautiful piece and hearing the words of the spiritual vibrating through their strings.

DETT, ROBERT NATHANIEL

Morales, Devon

SO163C Cave of the Winds (Grade 3)

Cave of the Winds was originally written by Robert Nathaniel Dett as a march for piano and subtitled "March and Two Step." Devon Morales arranged this boisterous, carnival romp with lightness and frivolity at a Level 3. Students will enjoy performing chromatic scales, hooked bows, and triplet 16th notes to create a playful rendition of a march which was said to have been admired by John Philip Sousa. Morales' instrumentation provides a clarity to this piece, allowing the melody to shine through while the other voices bounce along underneath.

GRAUPNER, CHRISTOPH

Shiu, Bingiee

SO131C Intrada in C Major (Grade 2.5)

Johann Christoph Graupner (1683 - 1760) was a German harpsichordist and composer of high Baroque music who was a contemporary of Bach, Telemann and Handel. His short Intrada in C, written originally for harpsichord, is carefully adapted in this easy string orchestra transcription by Bingiee Shiu.

Despite being hardworking and prolific, with about 2000 surviving works in his catalog, Graupner's music fell into obscurity after his death, due in part to a legal dispute over the ownership of his manuscripts, as well as the change of taste in musical styles that would usher in the Classical period. Interestingly, just prior to Bach, Graupner was offered the Cantorate position in Leipzig, which he had accepted until his current patron, in a sudden change of heart, paid the back wages Graupner had been owed, along with a significant increase in salary to retain him, opening the way for Bach's appointment. Today, Graupner's music is enjoying a revival due to the efforts of musicologists, performers and educators.

KHACHATURIAN, ARAM

Latham, Lynne

SO138C Waltz from Masquerade Suite (intermediate arrangement) (Grade 3)

The whimsical main theme, with its augmented 2nd, is perfect for teaching intervals and chromatic fingerings (the violas will play in 1/2 position). The first violins will shift to and stay in 3rd position for the 2nd theme, which the cellos and violas will share first. The middle section of the work has been omitted. A great addition to any Halloween concert for mid-level high school or community orchestra. A more advanced full transcription for string orchestra is also available from the publisher.

MAHLER, GUSTAV

Keiser, Lauren

SO112C Adagietto from Symphony No. 5 (Grade 3)

This treatment has been done for strings alone with an optional part for harp. The original key of F has been retained, and the optional harp part is embraced by the cello in definitive sections. This arrangement is playable by advancing ensembles, with expanded use of rhythms, ranges and keys but technical demands are still carefully considered. Includes viola T.C. parts and optional harp and piano.

NISHIMURA, YUKIKO

SO172C Flowing in the Wind (Grade 3)

Flowing in the Wind inspires imagination and memories about a carefree time or place. The legato bow strokes and intricate harmonies surround the listener with a beauty and sense of well-being. Yukiko Nishimura weaves harmonies in the orchestra within C Major, while placing rests for the musicians as the wind blows throughout the music. Flowing in the Wind expresses a season full of hope and joy through simpler rhythms, minimal time changes, mostly first position (except cello), and some divisi at a Level 3. Students will love the sounds and colors they create as an orchestra, while they practice and perform Flowing in the Wind, a beautiful addition to your library.

SO122C Lavande (Grade 2.5)

Lavande is the French word for the lavender flower, which is the inspiration for this work by Yukiko Nishimura. It presents an ideal vehicle for young string orchestras to explore the nuances of adagio playing with rich harmonies and soaring melodic lines.

SO127C Luna (Grade 3)

The title Luna is the Latin word for "moon," which is the subject of this lyrical original string orchestra work by composer Yukiko Nishimura. In a lilting waltz style, the composer has described the inspiration as "imagining the sky with the moon at daytime." Nishimura's gift for melody shines throughout, especially in the middle section which includes lush passages in the upper strings with delicate pizzicato accompaniment.

Composer/ pianist Yukiko Nishimura grew up in Japan and graduated from Tokyo National University of the Arts, where she studied with Atsutada Otaka. Upon graduation, she moved to the USA to study with Alfred Reed at U of Miami and later with Richard Danielpour at the Manhattan School of Music. Nishimura has received numerous commissions in a variety of genres from solo and chamber ensembles, to works for band, orchestra, film and theater. Among her honors are two Special Mentions at the Corciano International Composer Competition in Italy, the Aoyama Award, and a 2018 Nomination for the Hollywood Music in Media Prize.

SO128C Merry Merry Merry! (Grade 2.5)

As the title implies, Merry, Merry, Merry was inspired by the Christmas holidays, with the light texture and melodies evoking the gentle images of falling snow and brisk winter walks. The work is a brief fantasia in ABA form and stays completely within the first position, making it an ideal choice for an easy to play, original crowd pleaser on holiday-themed programs.

SO140C Tree House (Grade 2.5)

This charming piece in G major includes numerous teaching points, including chromatic fingerings, a variety of articulations, and slurs up to 4 to a bow. There is divisi for violin 1, viola and cello. The folk-like melody, very lyric in nature, is supported by a perpetual motion 8th-note accompaniment.

RIMELIS, DAVID

SO139C Ghost Chase (Grade 2)

A breathless accompaniment in quarters supports the melody in 8th notes in the key of A minor. Staccato plays an important part, as well as 2-note slurs and pizzicato makes an appearance. Dotted-quarter/eighth rhythms are performed with hooked bowings. There are a few chromatic notes that will require finger flexibility with clearly marked fingerings.

SHARP, SUE ROBERTS

SO147C Mischief Afoot (Grade 2)

The perfect lesson that the rests really are as important as the notes. Counting is a must in this sneaky piece in E minor. Simple rhythms that also include ties. A variety of articulations keep the notes interesting, such as staccato, tenuto, pizzicato and even tremolo. There are 2 sections that allow your orchestra to "create musical mischief." Sure to be a winner with middle school groups.

SHOSTAKOVICH, DMITRI

Keiser, Lauren

SO125C Allegretto: from Symphony No. 5, Mvt. 2 (Grade 2.5)

Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony was written in 1937 and premiered that year in Leningrad (St. Petersburg). It was a major success with an ovation lasting over 30 minutes. The symphony is approximately 45 minutes in length and has four movements. Allegretto is the second movement. It is a scherzo in form with a vein of humor that approaches grotesqueness. The work is a waltz parody with marcato sections of intense contrast.

This arranged and edited transcription is in first position for young people and maintains the original key. There are indicated cues for support of certain passages. Ossia's are provided for the better players to perform within the original ranges. For younger groups who may find the duration a little challenging, it may be shortened by taking one or both of the two cuts indicated in the score. This is the first-ever publication for string orchestra from this great symphony.

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Questions/ comments? info@keiserproductions.com

STRAVINSKY, IGOR

Keiser, Lauren

SO117C Round Dance from the Ballet "The Firebird" (Grade 2.5)

This medium-easy arrangement is the ideal introduction of this monumental ballet to young string players. Includes a piano reduction in the score for ease of rehearsal. The scoring employs expanded use of rhythms, ranges and keys but technical demands are still carefully considered.

TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER ILYITCH

Keiser, Lauren

SO120C Waltz from Serenade for Strings (Grade 2.5)

Taken from the second movement of the Serenade (and similar to the minuets of his idol, Mozart), Tchaikovsky's Valse also resembles many of his own ballet movements. Lauren Keiser's skilled adaptation is designed for teaching this important style and genre to young players.

TRADITIONAL

Bobrowitz, David

SO151C A Prayer for Peace: Hebrew Folk Song (Grade 3)

Our world could use some peace these days, and this traditional Hebrew tune is great for multi-cultural exposure, plus learning augmented 2nds and melodic/countermelody adventures for everyone but the basses, who provide the rhythmic drive in addition to optional tambourine.

TRADITIONAL

Goldberg, Cleo

SO162C Shed a Sweet Light (Hanukkah) (Grade 3)

Shed a Sweet Light, arranged by Cleo Goldberg, celebrates songs from the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah: a time of light, dancing the Horah, eating Latkes (potato pancakes), playing Dreidel (spinning top), and singing happy songs. S'vivon literally means spinning or dreidel, while Hanukkah, O Hanukkah is about the traditions of Hanukkah mentioned above. Shed a Sweet Light in E minor explores mixed meters of 2/4 and 4/4, pizzicato, arco, and slurred sixteenth notes at a Level 3. Cleo Goldberg passes the melody around the orchestra as the audience shares in the happiness of Shed a Sweet Light, a wonderful addition to your holiday string orchestra repertoire.

TRADITIONAL

Longfield, Robert

SO173C Song of the Birds: Catalan Christmas Carol (Grade 2.5)

The Song of the Birds (El cant dels ocells) is a traditional Catalan Christmas Carol. It was made famous by Pau (Pablo) Casals, who is considered one of the greatest cellists of all time. He was famous the world over and played for such notables as Queen Victoria, Theodore Roosevelt, and John F. Kennedy. After Casals' self-exile from Spain in 1939, he would open each concert with the playing of The Song of the Birds. In time, this song became an important symbol of his native Catalonia. The Song of the Birds has multiple stanzas each in the "voice" of a different type of bird expressing joy in the birth of Jesus Christ. Robert Longfield expresses this beautiful Christmas carol in legato singing lines using 2-3 part writing at a Level 2.5. In recognition and honor of Pau Casals, the opening melody of Robert Longfield's arrangement is played by the cello section.

TRADITIONAL

Whittington, R. Scott

SO165C Twelve Days of Christmas (Grade 3)

Twelve Days of Christmas is a time-honored holiday favorite, equally popular with young and old. This arrangement for developing orchestra creates a festive mood with a warm introduction presented by solo violin and cello, which leads into several contrasting variations of the tune. A minor variation provides a moment of reflection, which paves the way for a stirring chorale version of the melody, concluding with a sweeping finale. This intermediate arrangement is idiomatically written for developing string players, and is scored in the lower positions to allow directors to focus on blend, intonation and rhythmic accuracy. All sections are given interesting material to play. An optional part for orchestral bells provides a sparkly flavor to the piece.

VIVALDI, ANTONIO

Sieving, Robert

SO164C Allegro for Double Orchestra from the Responsory Domine ad adjuvandum me festina (Grade 3)

Robert Sieving's arrangement of Allegro for Double Strings by Antonio Vivaldi, RV593, originally a motet featuring the vocal setting of Psalm 69 for soprano, 2 oboes, 2 SATB choirs, and double string orchestra, provides the opportunity for two orchestras to perform in opposition and have a musical conversation through fugal writing. Sieving has maintained Vivaldi's writing and sound, as the two orchestras battle it out to be the reigning orchestra. Each orchestra and section have interesting parts, with string crossings, minimal shifting, stylistic Baroque bow use, and call and response sections, or echo sections. Invite a neighboring orchestra to perform this wonderful piece or divide your orchestra in two.

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