

LES MATADORS

An English Country Dance

IGNATIUS SANCHO

(1729-1780)

ARRANGED by DIÓN MORALES

For STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
16 Violin
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass

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About the Composer

Ignatius Sancho (c. 1729-1780) was born on a slave ship headed to the West Indies (now known as the Caribbean Islands). At the age of two, he was brought to London and forced to work as a slave in a house in Greenwich. During this time he met John Montagu, who encouraged his education. Upon John Montagu's death, Ignatius escaped enslavement and was employed as both a butler and valet within the House of Montagu. After his marriage to Anne Osborne in 1758, Ignatius left the Montagu household and opened a grocery store in Westminster, where he lived until his death in 1780.

Ignatius is believed to be the first published black British composer but did not put his name on his musical publications, opting to simply state the music was composed "by an African." *Les Matadors* from "*Minuets Cotillons & Country Dances*" for violin, mandolin, German flute, and harpsichord is an English Country Dance with prescribed dance steps included in the original publication.

About the Arranger

Dión (pronounced: dee-own) **Morales** was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois. He did not begin his orchestral studies until he was a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. He received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music and completed his graduate studies at VanderCook as well in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010.

The arranging of music by minority composers for school orchestra programs is a project that he plans to continue to grow, bringing diversity to the repertoire available to fellow music educators.

While Dión is passionate about music education, he is also a professional broadcaster in the board game industry. He uses his musical skills to create original works that are used in live broadcasts and presentations.

Program Notes

Les Matadors represents an English country dance from Ignatius Sancho's *Minuets Cotillons & Country Dances* for the Violin, Mandolin, German Flute, & Harpsichord, originally published in 1775. Sancho's original *Les Matadors* piece is accompanied only by a second instrument in quarter and half notes. Dión Morales arranged *Les Matadors* employing two-part writing in D major for string orchestra, exploring interesting dynamics, and conversations between groups of two instruments. Accents and skips hold the students' attention as they learn 2/4 time. Students' imaginations will create a matador, in his colorful and grand *traje de luces* or "suit of lights," posturing with the bull in the arena.

Les Matadors

An English Country Dance

Ignatius Sancho
Arranged by Di3n Morales

Moderato $\text{♩} = 100$

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

f

mf

3rd pos.

9

mf

f

1st pos.

17

f

mf

3rd pos.

1st pos.