

*Holiday Music for Orchestra*

# THE SONG OF THE BIRDS

## CATALAN CHRISTMAS CAROL

*for String Orchestra*

Arranged by  
Robert Longfield

### FULL SCORE

### INSTRUMENTATION

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

Grade 2.5  
Duration: Approx. 2 Minutes



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*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.

## About the Arranger

**Robert Longfield** has been a music educator in the public schools of Michigan and Florida for over thirty-five years. He is currently the orchestra director at Miami Palmetto Senior High School, Pinecrest, Florida, where he also serves as Chairman of the Visual and Performing Arts Department. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Longfield is the conductor of the Greater Miami Symphonic Band.

Mr. Longfield has music degrees from the University of Michigan and the University of Miami. His teachers include Jerry Bilik and Dr. Alfred Reed.

A member of ASCAP, Mr. Longfield has received several commissions and has over two hundred publications to his credit. His compositions and arrangements have been played and recorded by bands and orchestras throughout the United States as well as in Europe and Japan.

**Traditional**  
**arr. Robert Longfield**

## 4 A Tempo

[illegible]