

VOLUME 1

VIOLA *fest*

FOR VIOLA DUET, TRIO, OR QUARTET
OR
FOR VIOLIN AND VIOLA ENSEMBLE

by
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INTRODUCTION

ViolaFest is an eclectic collection of original viola duets, trios and quartets. They cover a range from the easiest pieces in *Volume 1*, which can be played by violists with very little experience, through to the most complicated pieces in *Volume 2*, which could challenge advanced players.

All pieces are in score form. In addition, individual parts are provided for the two pieces in *ViolaFest Volume 2* where the score is longer than three pages. The ensembles are voiced so that the highest notes are played by Viola 1.

The optional violin parts allow violin players to join with violists. One or more parts to each piece have been transcribed into treble clef. The violin scores include both violin and viola lines so that players can see what is happening in all parts.

ViolaFest Volume 1 contains pieces which are suitable for beginning through intermediate level viola players, or for violinists who are learning the alto clef. Several duets have one part which uses only open strings, along with a melody part for a teacher or more experienced student.

In my own studio, violin students at an intermediate level and beyond have the opportunity to play the viola, and they want an interesting musical experience as they learn the new clef. They can read the easiest of these pieces the first day they pick up a viola.

Many of the *Volume 1* pieces are written so that all parts are of equal difficulty. They use a variety of finger patterns, and sometimes the rhythms are more challenging than the pitches. All of *Volume 1* can be played in first position, and all viola parts are in the alto clef.

The pieces in *ViolaFest Volume 2* are more challenging than those in *Volume 1*. Some involve shifting, and Viola 1 parts frequently use both alto and treble clefs. Finger markings are kept to a minimum, and only the first note in a new position is marked when the notes go above the range of first position.

Most of *ViolaFest* was written during a sabbatical in Europe. The pieces use a variety of musical styles, some influenced by the folk music of Europe, others more contemporary in sound. Some of the titles reflect where they were written.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude my many friends, colleagues and students who played these pieces with me and helped edit them. I especially wish to Karen Barg Camacho, Laurel Howard, Dee Martz, Carolyn Meyer, Karen Moffatt and Lewis Rosove for their generous help and wise suggestions. *ViolaFest* is dedicated to my eternally supportive husband Peter, and I hope that these pieces will always be a reminder of our idyllic sabbatical in Switzerland and France.

Enjoy !

Joanne Martin

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WATERWHEEL

JOANNE MARTIN

Moderato $\text{♩} = 84$

Viola 1

Viola 2

6

11

16

21

26

mf

mp

p

f

A

B

C

V

The musical score is for two violas in 4/4 time, marked Moderato with a tempo of 84 quarter notes per minute. The score is divided into six systems, each containing two staves (Viola 1 and Viola 2). Measure numbers 6, 11, 16, 21, and 26 are indicated at the start of their respective systems. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *f* (forte). Section markers A, B, and C are placed above the staves at measures 10, 15, and 20 respectively. Viola 1 parts are often marked with a 'V' above the notes. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of the 30th measure.

SLIGHTLY BLUE

JOANNE MARTIN

Semplice ♩ = 112

Viola 1

Viola 2

Viola 3

5

9 **A**

13

mf

p

mp

mf

poco rit.

p a tempo

rit.

The musical score is for three violas (Viola 1, Viola 2, and Viola 3) in a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Semplice' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four systems of three staves each. The first system (measures 1-4) starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The second system (measures 5-8) starts with a dynamic of *p*. The third system (measures 9-12) is marked with a box 'A' and contains dynamics *mp*, *mf*, and *poco rit.*. The fourth system (measures 13-16) starts with a dynamic of *p a tempo* and ends with a *rit.* marking. The music features various melodic lines with slurs and ties, and some chromaticism in the lower staves.