

VIOLA ENSEMBLE

# Folk Strings

*For Viola Ensemble*

*Arranged and Edited by Joanne Martin*

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## INTRODUCTION

*Folk Strings* is a collection of folk melodies from around the world arranged for strings. Some of these tunes were part of my childhood, and I have many happy memories of the hours spent singing them with my mother while she played the piano. Others are melodies I discovered more recently and are included because I enjoy playing them.

Unlike classical music, which normally has an “authentic” version, folk music often exists in many versions with differences in the melody or lyrics. Sometimes several countries lay claim to a melody because a group of people moved to a new country and took their music with them. Most folk songs were sung and played for many years before they were written down, and their original composer is usually unknown. This collection includes melodies in a variety of moods and with rhythmic patterns that are representative of their country of origin.

The arrangements in *Folk Strings* can be effective with players at a variety of levels. Less experienced players can play the melody line, learning it partly by ear and partly by reading. Some pieces in the collection are easier than others, and teachers can choose which are appropriate for their particular group. In order to provide maximum flexibility, the collection is available in a number of instrumentations, which are the same as those used in *Festive Strings* and *More Festive Strings*:

### ***Folk Strings for String Quartet or String Orchestra***

#### ***Folk Strings for Violin Ensemble***

#### ***Folk Strings for Viola Ensemble***

#### ***Folk Strings for Cello Ensemble***

For two, three, or four violin, viola, or cello players in any combination of these instruments

#### ***Folk Strings for Solo Violin***

#### ***Folk Strings for Solo Viola***

#### ***Folk Strings for Solo Cello***

For use with: *Folk Strings for String Quartet or String Orchestra*  
or *Folk Strings for Violin, Viola, or Cello Ensemble*  
or *Folk Strings Piano Accompaniments*

### ***Folk Strings Piano Accompaniments***

For use with: *Folk Strings for String Quartet or String Orchestra*  
or *Folk Strings for Violin, Viola, or Cello Ensemble*  
or *Folk Strings for Solo Violin, Viola, or Cello*

The arrangements are in keys chosen to be accessible and resonant. Shifting has been kept to a minimum, and where a shift is required, finger numbers indicate the first note in a new position. A fingering in parentheses means to remain in the same position.

These Violin, Viola, and Cello Ensemble arrangements may be played as duets, trios, or quartets, in any combination of those instruments (e.g., three violins and one viola, one violin and two celli). For a duet, use parts 1 and 2 or parts 1, 2, and 4. They are printed in score form to simplify assigning parts in ensembles and to develop the student’s ability to read vertically.

Viola 1 plays the melody, which duplicates the Solo Viola part (*Folk Strings for Solo Viola*)

Viola 2 plays harmony and countermelody

This part contains the most challenging shifting and sometimes changes to treble clef

Viola 3 plays a harmony part

Viola 4 plays the bass line

During the preparation of this project, I have imposed on the good nature of numerous friends, colleagues, students, and family members. They gave their time generously to play the pieces, and their suggestions were invaluable in the revision process. In particular I thank Karen Barg Camacho, Mary Helen Law, Carolyn McCall, Judi Price-Rosen, Patricia Shand, Fiona Shand, Ellen Shertzer, Carole Shoaf, the “crusty academics,” Karin Erhardt, who provided the cello fingerings, and Karla Philipp, who did the bass fingerings and in addition once again provided a wealth of helpful advice.

Especially I acknowledge my daughter Shauna for her continually cheerful encouragement and my husband Peter for being, as always, incredibly patient and caring, even when asked to play yet one more draft version or to proofread one more folder of parts. Their support gave me the energy to complete this project.

*Folk Strings* is dedicated to the memory of my niece Alison, whose brief years were so full of the joy of life.

Enjoy!

Joanne Martin

## SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT

United States  
Arranged by JOANNE MARTINModerato, quite freely  $\text{♩} = 52$ 

Viola 1 *mp* **A** *f*

Viola 2 *mp* *mf*

Viola 3 *mp* *mf*

Viola 4 *mp* *mf*

6

11 **B**

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

# SHE'S LIKE THE SWALLOW

Canada

Arranged by JOANNE MARTIN

Dolce ♩ = 108

Viola 1  
*pp* con sordino  
*mp*

Viola 2  
*pp*  
*p*

Viola 3  
*pp* con sordino  
*p*

Viola 4  
*pp*  
*p*

8  
2 1 V 2

*mf*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*mp*

15  
3 V V

*pp*  
*pp*  
*pp*  
*pp*