### INTERMEDIATE STRING ORCHESTRA

# **MOMENTS**

ROBERT D. GARDNER (ASCAP)

#### INSTRUMENTATION

- I Conductor
- 8 Ist Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass

#### PROGRAM NOTES

Moments by Robert Gardner was inspired by the idea that, although we sometimes move dully through our daily routines, it is good to take time to appreciate the individual moments that make up our lives, like a child does the first time they experience something. This piece is to be performed in a heavy and rhythmic style, with an essence similar to a contemporary rock tune. Moments should resonate well with young string players because it uses rhythms and tonalities similar to the music with which they are familiar. Many sections of the work have a steady and mechanical rhythmic feel, which represents the monotonous way we sometimes move through life. The legato melody sits on top of this rhythmic motion, and challenges us to step outside of ourselves to view the world from a different perspective. The agitated middle section suspends time for a moment, and then bursts open with all instruments playing different fast motives, imitating the hectic bustle of our society. Nonetheless, the chorus sections of the work calm to a smooth style and consonant tonality, where we find the time to focus only on the present moment of our lives, and to appreciate just how interesting, complex and precious it is within our fleeting human existence.

#### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All Belwin string parts have been carefully bowed and fingered appropriately by level. The Yellow Very Beginning series includes many bowings as well as reminder fingerings for first-time readers. The Red Beginning series includes frequent bowings to assist younger players. Fingerings for altered pitches are often marked. The Green Intermediate series includes appropriately placed bowings for middle-level students. Fingerings and positions are marked for notes beyond first position. The Blue Concert series includes bowings appropriate for the experienced high school player. Fingerings and position markings are indicated for difficult passages.

**Bob Phillips**Belwin/Pop String Editor



#### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Moments is technically accessible, with all parts in first position and few accidentals or difficult bowing patterns. At the same time, this piece will challenge your group with its independent voicings and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. The entire piece should be performed with a heavy rock style in mind. Students should be taught to use a lot of bow weight into the string and sharp articulation, and to play as if they had a drum set accompaniment behind them. The opening requires strong articulation and accurate rhythms from the lower strings. All accompaniment patterns for the 'verse' sections (mm. 9–28; mm. 37–48) should be played with a heavy style and very steady tempo. The melody in the first violin and viola at m. 21 should be prominent, as should the cello and bass melody at m. 41. The 'chorus' sections (mm. 29–36; mm. 76–end) should be played with a slightly more legato style, but still rhythmically steady and strong. The 'bridge' (mm. 57–72) should be very heavy with strong articulation, especially the syncopated rhythms in the lower parts. All sixteenth notes should be brought out at mm. 65–72, and the first violin part is quite challenging at tempo. All quarter notes at mm. 89–end should be played with full value and tone so as not to lose momentum, and the piece should gradually crescendo to the end.



## **Moments**



























