La Marmotte

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
Arranged by TIM McCARRICK

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor
8 1st Violin
8 2nd Violin
5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
5 Viola
5 Cello
5 String Bass

PROGRAM NOTES

This work, with words from a play by the poet Goethe and music by Beethoven, is a simple folk-like song about a poor troubadour and his trained pet entertaining for their daily bread. Beethoven was a great admirer of Goethe and occasionally set his words to music. The broken chord accompaniment (usually in the cello) imitates the organ grinder as he sings while the marmot entertains the listeners. It is a beautiful melody that moves between A minor and C major. It was published in a book of songs, Opus 52, in 1793.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This piece can be performed successfully at tempos from andante to allegro (90–120). Although it is sometimes sung faster, its plaintive minor tonality resounds with strings a bit closer to andante tempo. The C naturals are crucial for all the players. The cellos will have two C#’s to master, a low 1 on the G string, and an extended 4 on the D string, but both of these should be easily managed. The melody and accompaniment tasks are shared between sections, and cellos have their chance at the melody over a pizzicato accompaniment.

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
La Marmotte

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 2:05

Allegretto ($i = 120$)

Violins

Viola
(Violin III)

Cello

String Bass

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