Allegro Vivo

from Concerto Grosso Opus 6, #5

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL
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 vibrant and full-sounding allegro is definitely one of Handel's "greatest hits." It practically sparkles as violins trill in harmony, and vigorous scalewise passages crescendo into exciting new sections! Throughout the Baroque Musical Era (1600–1750), it was common to borrow musical themes from your own works (and even, occasionally, from others!). In this case, some of the music in this exciting Allegro comes from an aria in the opera, *Imeneo* (HWV 41), that Handel had written some 17 years earlier. And three of the movements also recycle thematic material from the Overture to the *Ode for St. Cecilia's Day* (HWV 76), causing some scholars to call this "St. Cecilia's Concerto."

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Synchronizing trills between first and second violins may be a new challenge for your violins, but there are many ways to improve trills. One way is to simply pick a trill, like the first one, and have them play it as 8th notes, then triplets, then four 16ths, and so on. The goal is to always be together and to reach the point where they can do this regularly without sounding like "sneakers in the dryer!" This provides a teaching opportunity to discuss the performance practices of the time; most agree that trills in this era began from the top note. Although, some say that this is only for cadence points—something for you and your group to investigate? And most of all, make sure you and your students enjoy this piece. It is one of the high points of Handel's string writing, and in this arrangement all cellists and violinists get to be "concerti" players.

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 PhillipsBelwin/Pop String Editor



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