Notable Neighbors

CAROL J. JOHNSON



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

As soon as your young string players have learned their "low 2" finger patterns, they are ready for this catchy teaching tune. Written in the attention-grabbing key of A minor, this mystical piece reinforces the "neighborly" half-step relationship between E–F on the D string and B–C on the A string. Before you introduce this piece to students, be sure to review and model the sound and "feeling" of the half step interval, so that students are comfortable with the different finger pattern. Reinforce with the violins and violas that the first and second fingers need to actually touch when on the D and A strings. Cellos should be reminded that the second finger (not third) is used on the D and A strings, while basses should remember to use the second finger on the D string, as well as the first finger for C natural when shifting up on the G string. Every section gets the melody, a winner with the kids, and you'll like how each section learns to play their half steps more in tune. A great supplement to your method book, and also a successful crowd-pleaser on your next concert!

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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