## ORCHESTRA EXPRESSIONS" SERIES

# Danza Africana

VICTOR LÓPEZ (ASCAP)

#### INSTRUMENTATION

- I Conductor
- 8 Ist Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- I Piano Accompaniment
  - Drumset
    - (Wind Chimes/Suspended
    - Cymbal/Bongos)
    - (Optional Claves/Small
    - Toms/Large Toms/Conga
    - Drums)

#### 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



#### PROGRAM NOTES

Danza Africana portrays traditional dance in Africa, which often expresses the life of the community. Characterized by the African polyrhythm, this dance is still closely connected with music in its simplest form: singing. The rhythmic variety typical of African music expresses itself in the body that is able to perform different rhythmic sequences simultaneously. The movements are complex and often executed on the spot. In this original composition, it is the composer's intent to have young string players experience new and exciting literature.

#### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The opening statement is to be played slowly and legato. Every note is to be played long unless otherwise indicated. Make certain that the dynamics are followed closely. At rehearsal number 9, the 2-bar rhythmic motive, which gives this piece its African flavor, is introduced in the drumset part. Although one player can play the part, additional percussionists may double by playing the indicated optional parts. The bongos (opt. toms or conga drums) should be tuned properly. Although tuning the bongos is largely a matter of personal preference, it is suggested that the small drum be tuned high (do not over tighten) and the large drum a fourth below. For this composition, the player may want to use regular drumsticks or hard felt tips. Experiment with the different sounds. When available, African drums may be used to produce a more authentic sound. However, the additional players should not play ad libitum, but should maintain the written rhythmic patterns. The percussion instruments should not overpower the ensemble. At bars 35 and 36, make certain that the unison line is balanced and that everyone can hear the string bass. To facilitate the music rehearsal and establish a smooth transition between sections, take time to study and identify where the repeat signs (D.S. al Coda, Sign, and Coda) are located.

This composition has been written with very young players in mind and should be playable by beginning students. Additionally, you will find that it is easy to learn, exciting, playable, and will definitely keep the percussionists on the alert.

Musically yours

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