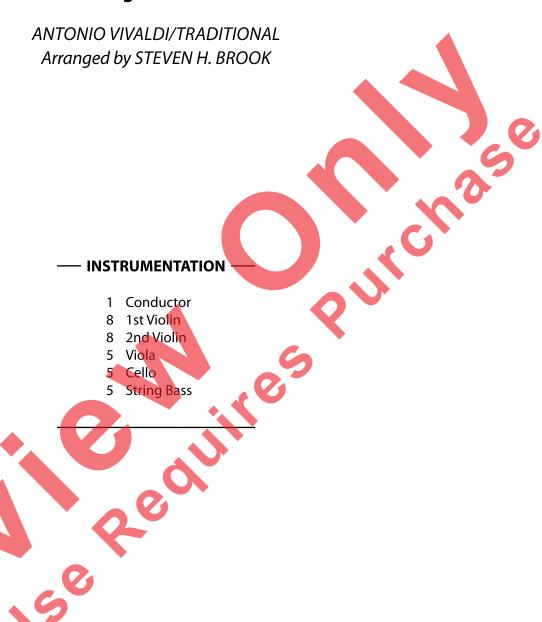
# **Wenceslas Meets Vivaldi**

The Good King Chills Out in Winter



Imagine howling winds and bitter cold as musicians rehearse. Good King Wenceslas arrives with gifts of food and fuel! Spirits are lifted, the music is transformed, and everyone chills out. Blending and transforming both "Good King Wenceslas" and "Winter," this arrangement will jazz up any holiday program.

### **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.

> Bof Rhillips Belwin/Pop String Editor



#### **PROGRAM NOTES**

"Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the land, not a creature was eating, not even the band." Such was the state of affairs as howling winds and bitter cold accompanied Antonio Vivaldi's rehearsal of "Winter" from *The Four Seasons*.

Just then, in the moonlight, the starving musicians notice a man trudging through the snow. It is Good King Wenceslas, bearing gifts of food and fuel! As they meet and the gifts are presented, spirits are lifted, the music is transformed, and everyone chills out. In the words of the beloved carol, "Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing."

This arrangement is an amalgamation and transformation that has been 1,100 years in the process. Vivaldi's masterpiece, *The Four Seasons*, dates from 1725. In it, Vivaldi captures and transforms the moods of nature into a blending of poetry and music. John Mason Neale's familiar carol, "Good King Wenceslas," introduced in 1853, is itself a blending and transformation. The tune was borrowed from the 13th century springtime carol, *Tempus adest floridum*, and is used to tell a story based upon the historical figure, Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia (907–935). All of this set in a contemporary context.

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Sudden and dramatic changes in dynamics, texture, and style will produce a greater impact on listener and performer alike. For instance, at the beginning, keep the bow as close to the bridge as possible to produce a frigid, bone-chilling sound. Then, with absolutely no hint of what is to come, play a sudden full-bodied forte at measure 12. In general, maintain longer phrasing in the "Vivaldi" sections, and a lighter bouncier approach in the jazzy parts. For instance, measure 49 begins a long smooth diminuendo and crescendo, without the sense of "beats." Then immediately, in measure 52, the piece is bouncy with a good beat. Maintain this distinction even when the two styles are played simultaneously, as in measures 34–40.

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CONDUCTOR SCORE Duration - 2:00

Antonio Vivaldi/Traditional Arranged by Steven H. Brook



















