PASSACAGLIA

By Gary Fagan (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Scor	·e	1
Violin I		8
Violin II		8
Viola		5
Cello		5
String Bass		5

An original passacaglia with the melody in the bass line, this piece will challenge your basses and provide opportunities for the orchestra to work on balance and listening down.

PROGRAM NOTES

A passacaglia is a Baroque music form in moderately slow triple meter consisting of a continuous variation based on a well-defined melodic phrase usually appearing in the bass line. This form of music is sometimes also referred to as a chaconne although it is not clear, even among scholars today, what characteristics distinguish these two forms of music. This form of composition became almost obsolete after 1750 when the Classical period began.

Notes to Conductor

Keep in mind that the actual melody appears in the bass line and should never be completely covered by the contrapuntal material being played in the upper voices of the ensemble. It is also desirable for the players to think in four-measure phrases throughout the piece. Watch dynamic changes carefully but, again, always listen down to the bass line.



Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

Passacaglia













