# SHIPWRECK COAST

## By Erica Donahoe

### INSTRUMENTATION

Full So	core.														.1
Violin	I														.8
Violin	II														.8
Viola.															.5
Cello.															.5
String	Bass									,					.5

#### **FLEX PARTS**

available for free download from alfred.com/supplemental

For more information please visit alfred.com/stringflex

Students will love this dark and stormy piece! Cello and string bass players will enjoy digging into the opening melody, and all members of the orchestra will be challenged with an exciting and rewarding musical journey.

## PROGRAM NOTES

I wrote this piece after visiting the shores of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is a landscape that is breathtaking, wild, and remote. Whitefish Point is the end of a peninsula that narrows the waterway and made for very busy and dangerous shipping lanes in the early 20th century. The area is known as Lake Superior's *Shipwreck Coast*, with more than 200 shipwrecks lying at the bottom of the lake. The Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum and Whitefish Point Lighthouse pay tribute to the many lost sailors as well as paint a picture of the rugged and lonely job of Lighthouse Keepers along the Great Lakes. Included among these memorials, is the bell from the Edmund Fitzgerald, the largest ship to have sunk on Lake Superior, which lost her entire crew of 29. The exact reason for the shipwreck is unknown, but the November storm that blew cruel winds and created waves as high as 35 feet certainly played a part.

This piece is meant to capture the feel of adventure and, frequently, the danger that was part of being a sailor in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The cellos and string basses start out with a dark and stormy theme that comes back several times throughout the piece. The whole orchestra will enjoy this piece, as every section has a moment to shine. It's the perfect opportunity for young orchestras looking to solidify their D minor skills as well as perform some dramatic dynamics and articulations.

### Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at www.alfred.com/stringeditorial.

X - 9 (b),  $(\sharp)$ ,  $(\natural)$   $\bigcap$  or  $\bigvee$   $\bigvee$  extended position shift bow lift/reset high or low fingerings hooked bowings



## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Encourage your cellos and basses to really dig in, with heavy articulations right at the frog. In the sweeter more legato moments, such as measure 17, remind students to use lots of bow and adjust the weight of their bow to achieve a consistent tone even when marked piano.

Thank you for choosing *Shipwreck Coast*, I sincerely hope both you and your students enjoy playing it!

# **Shipwreck Coast**

FULL SCORE
Duration - 2:15

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