As performed by Van Halen

DREAMS

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

with Optional Rock Rhythm Section

Words and Music by SAMMY HAGAR, EDWARD VAN HALEN, ALEX VAN HALEN and MICHAEL ANTHONY

Arranged by MARK WOOD

Instrumentation

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Advanced Violins
- 8 Violin I
- 8 Violin II
- 5 Violin III (Viola &)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- 1 Piano Accompaniment

PROGRAM NOTES

One of the great Van Halen songs transcribed for string orchestra. As a string player, I was enamored with Eddie Van Halen. He was a big influence on me while I was studying at Juilliard. I purposely lowered the key to A major for better playability. The tempo is brisk, yet very playable. The upbeat and positive posture of this composition was a big attraction to me as a musician, and it was an honor for me to show great respect to the song and our string world! The play-along tracks feature my personal band!

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

I composed and added the advanced violin part, to give the music a little more pizzazz and a challenge to the advanced violinists.

While at Juilliard, I studied and transcribed a lot of Eddie's guitar playing to further understand not just his virtuosity, but his phrasing. The solo section in *Dreams* is a great example of his masterful improvisation. As we string players know, our 400 year history was always a journey in virtuoso playing. From Bach and Vivaldi all the way to Paganini, we have the strong background and credibility to express powerful technical facility and musicality. So, we string players can do anything! Yet, the virtuoso guitar world was a real cultural movement back in the 1970s for over 20 years and beyond. And *Dreams* is the perfect example of melody, arrangement, virtuosity, and performance.

ABOUT THE MULTI-LEVEL PARTS AND ROCK RHYTHM SECTION

Dreams is designed to be performed by a level 3 orchestra with an advanced violin section of level 4 players.

Although the piece can be played by strings alone, an optional standard rock rhythm section can be used consisting of guitar, electric bass, piano, and drums. Only the piano part appears in the score. Another option is to play along with the demo track that is available as a free download.

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