

MEADOWS UNDER A SPRING SKY

ARIC BRANCHFIELD

(b. 1969)

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

Instrumentation

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 2 Violin 3
(for Viola)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Aric Branchfield received his degree in music education from Vandercook College of Music and a masters degree in instructional technology from St. Joseph's University. Currently an elementary band teacher in Pennsylvania, he is also active in the Philadelphia area as a composer and arranger. Mr. Branchfield is a former member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps and has worked with top competing bands in Bands of America.

PROGRAM NOTES

A stately composition in D major *alla breve* (cut time) that allows for concentration on bowing, *Meadows Under a Spring Sky* speaks with melodic lyricism. At once easy to play and yet mature musically, it is ideal for teaching the young string orchestra.

PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS

Hooked bows and two-note slurs are found in all parts. Longer note values are found frequently, so teach the students to always subdivide their counting to avoid rushing the tempo and clipping note values. Cut time may need to be introduced to the orchestra. The conservative tempo allows for teaching the concept easily. The upper strings have the opportunity to switch between using open strings and covering with the 4th finger.

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3

Stately $\text{♩} = 76-84$

5

Aric Branchfield (ASCAP)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

8

13

16

21

mp

25

29

Musical score for measures 25-29. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a complex texture with multiple voices. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also accents (*v*) and slurs. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the score.

33

37

Musical score for measures 33-37. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music continues with a similar texture. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are accents (*v*) and slurs. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the score.

41

Musical score for measures 41-45. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music features a complex texture with multiple voices. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are accents (*v*) and slurs. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the score.

49

Musical score for measures 49-56. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music begins with rests in the upper staves and a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the lower staves. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) with hairpins and accents (*v*) in measures 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55. The piece concludes with a double bar line in measure 56.

57

Musical score for measures 57-64. The score continues with the same instrumentation and key signature. Measures 57-64 feature a more active melodic line in the upper staves, with eighth-note patterns and some slurs. The lower staves continue with a consistent accompaniment. The piece ends with a double bar line in measure 64.

65

Musical score for measures 65-72. The score continues with the same instrumentation. The tempo marking *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) appears above the first staff in measure 65. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line in measure 72.

74

a tempo

82

Musical score for measures 74-82. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs, one alto clef, and two bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *a tempo*. The dynamic is *mf* (mezzo-forte). The music consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes across all staves.

83

Musical score for measures 83-91. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs, one alto clef, and two bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamic is *mf*. The music continues with rhythmic patterns, including some rests and accents (marked with 'v').

92

Musical score for measures 92-100. The score is written for five staves: two treble clefs, one alto clef, and two bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamic is *f* (forte). The tempo is marked *rit.* (ritardando). The music features more complex rhythmic patterns, including dotted notes and accents (marked with 'v').