

ARCO POLO

INGRID KOLLER

For
STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass
4 Advanced Violin
2 Advanced Viola
2 Advanced Violoncello

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About the Composer

Ingrid Koller is a freelance violist, violin and viola instructor, and composer in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. She has played in numerous ensembles and orchestras and has been a member of the Lake String Quartet for over 28 years. Nationally recognized artists for whom Ingrid has played include Roy Clark, Michael Card, and Fernando Ortega.

Ingrid is a founder and co-director of the Early Bird String Academy, a before-school orchestra program in North Saint Paul, Minnesota. Inspired by her students, she writes engaging and imaginative pieces for string orchestra and small ensembles. Ingrid studied with John Tartaglia at the University of Minnesota where she obtained a Bachelor of Music in Viola Performance. Ingrid is a member of the Viola Society of America, American String Teacher's Association, American Composer's Forum, and ASCAP.

Published works: *Adeste Fiddles*, LudwigMasters Publications and *Five Duets for Two Violas*, *Five Duets for Two Violins*, and *Five Duets for Violin and Viola*, Latham Music, Ltd/ LudwigMasters Publications.

Program Notes

This engaging piece for string orchestra is appropriate for any time of the year but would be especially fun for a summer orchestra concert. *Arco Polo* is the musical depiction of the well-known swimming pool game "Marco Polo." The piece begins *tutti pizzicato*, but then the instruments "call out" to each other using their bows. Students and audience members can listen for the following: The calling and answering (sections take turns), playful splashing (grace notes between letter C and letter D and at the end), the annoyance of the violin sections when their calls are not answered (letter G), and the underwater response of the cellos and basses (near the end). This is a multi-level piece which makes it a practical choice for an orchestra which has students at varying skill levels. At its core, it is a level 1.5 piece and can stand alone as such, but with the addition of the advanced violin, viola, and cello parts it becomes even more challenging and fun. For yet another layer of fun, there is an optional improvisational section (between D and E) where students are randomly (perhaps secretly) selected to be the "caller" and the rest of the orchestra answers. As an extra surprise for the orchestra and audience as well, an audience member could be cued to call out to the orchestra.

3

Allegro ♩ = 120

pizz.

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