

Young String Ensemble Series

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 - Full Score
- 4 - Violin melody
- 8 - Violin 1
- 8 - Violin 2
- 4 - Violin 3
- 4 - Viola melody
- 4 - Viola
- 4 - Cello melody
- 5 - Cello
- 2 - Bass

Humming Chorus

from Madame Butterfly

by Loreta Fin AM

Program and Rehearsal Notes

Duration: 2:30

Level: 2.5

Giacomo Puccini (1858 – 1924) was an Italian composer, known for his operas, which featured beautiful melodies. This work comes from his opera, *Madame Butterfly*. It represents the hope of the main character as she waits for her love to return to her, with a slight hint of the eventual sad fate that awaits her. The innocent childlike melody depicts the quiet passing of time and in the opera, the Chorus sings the melody by humming (hence the title). There is opportunity for the more advanced students in each section to play the melody, using higher positions and vibrato, while requiring excellent bow control. The accompanying parts are all pizzicato, which gives the director an opportunity to discuss how a resonant tone is produced when plucking the string, including keeping the left-hand fingers firm and making sure that the plucking finger is on the fingerboard, using the side of the finger, rather than the nail. This arrangement is very close to the original and requires precise intonation in the unison and octave parts. I first heard this chorus when I was about 6. I played it over and over on my mother's 78 record player. I had never heard anything so beautiful in my life! I thank my parents for the priceless gift of music they gave me.

Loreta Fin AM was Director of Strings at Somerville House School in Brisbane, Australia for 35 years. All of the ensembles received Platinum Awards in competitions over the years. Loreta has presented at National and International conferences. She has conducted the String Orchestras at the Queensland and Australian Honours Ensemble Programs over several years. Loreta served as both State and National President of AUSTA (Australian Strings Association). She is a Federal Examiner with the Australian Music Examinations Board and an advisor on several music education boards.

Loreta studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has performed regularly as a freelance musician. She has been Principal Violist with the Queensland Pops Orchestra for over 30 years. Well known as an experienced educator and adjudicator, Loreta has also written over 100 publications for young string orchestras, which are frequently selected as set works for competitions and festivals. Loreta's aim is to bring an appreciation of music to as many young string players as possible, while teaching valuable rhythmic and technical skills in an enjoyable way. She has received State and National Awards in recognition of her service to AUSTA and the String and Music Communities of Australia. In 2024, Loreta was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day Honours, for significant service to music, to education and to professional associations.

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from Madame Butterfly

Giacomo Puccini

Moderato

Musical score for "The Rose Tree" in G major, 3/4 time. The score is for a piano and includes parts for the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score is marked with a large red watermark "Legal Use Required".

The score consists of 12 measures. The right hand part features a melody with a trill in measure 4 and a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (mp) dynamic in measure 6. The left hand part provides a harmonic accompaniment, including a trill in measure 4 and a pizzicato (pizz.) instruction in measure 8.

15

Musical score for measures 15-21. The score is written for a piano (p) and features a complex arrangement of staves. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked 'p' (piano). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

22

Musical score for measures 22-28. The score is written for a piano (p) and features a complex arrangement of staves. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The tempo is marked 'p' (piano). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

30 A tempo

Musical score for measures 30-37. The score is written for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass) and a Piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The tempo is marked "A tempo". The score includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are also articulation marks (accents) and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 34. The Cello/Double Bass part includes an "arco" marking in measure 37.

38

rit.

A tempo

Musical score for measures 38-45. The score continues from the previous system. It includes a "rit." (ritardando) marking at the beginning of measure 38, followed by a return to "A tempo". The score includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are also articulation marks (accents) and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 39. The Cello/Double Bass part includes "pizz." (pizzicato) markings in measures 41 and 43, and an "arco" marking in measure 45.

44 *rall.*

pp *arco*

pp *arco*

pp

pp *arco*

ppp *arco*

ppp *arco*

ppp