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The Arranger

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a conductor, composer, clinician & cellist from Northern Virginia. As a music educator, she has taught all levels of orchestra in Fairfax County over the past 15 years and is currently the orchestra director at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, VA. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steve Amundson, and Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

In addition to her love of teaching, Mrs. LaBrie is a published composer and arranger as well as an active guest conductor, adjudicator, and clinician. She enjoys sharing her passion for music with others and teaching students how to practice with purpose.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players and founding codirector of the Stallion Summer Strings Camp. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam.

About the Music

There is a calmness in wintertime, the quiet of snow falling, the darkness of the days, and the soft chill of the cold. There is equally a brightness in wintertime, the white of the snow, the joy of kids playing, and the happiness of celebrations. These concepts encompass the "calm" and "bright" of this arrangement of Franz Xaver Gruber's *Silent Night*.

Throughout the work, performers are encouraged to explore phrasing to enhance the broad lines of the melody. In the "calm" section make sure to hold notes for the full value by using the location, amount, weight, speed and tilt of the bow carefully. Open strings should be avoided in the higher ranges by adding 4th fingers for violins and violas as well as alternative fingers for cello and bass to allow for more of a challenge. Vibrato, for those who are ready for it, should be added to provide a richer tone. In the "bright" section be mindful to balance the melody as it passes from voice to voice with the moving lines and supporting parts.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie



CALM AND BRIGHT

(Silent Night)

FRANZ XAVER GRUBER Arranged by KATIE O'HARA LABRIE



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