Beginning String Orchestra

Grade 1



Quadritium

Mike Forbes

BAS39 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	
Viola	
Cello	5
Bass	
Piano	1

Program Notes

Quadritium, a fantasy on four notes, was written specifically to introduce beginning musicians to new ways of thinking about music. While the music is not atonal (in fact, far from it) the use of quartal harmonies derived from the interval of the perfect fourth lead the players down melodic and rhythmic episodes all derived from the number four. Four-measure phrases, the interval of the fourth, rhythms involving nothing faster than quarter notes, and the use of just four notes permeate this work for beginning strings. This work makes for a simplified introduction to contemporary music: It allows directors to get away from "learning the notes" and to focus on other elements of music (rhythm, balance, blend, dynamics, etc.) in their rehearsals. At the same time, the work introduces young musicians and audiences to new musical ideas in an approachable and intriguing framework.

About the Composer

An artist of widely diverse musical talents, Mike Forbes has set forth on a career encompassing all aspects of performing, composing, teaching and conducting. He began his writing career creating hundreds of arrangements and compositions especially for brass, many of which are performed by today's foremost brass ensembles. His works for the Sotto Voce Tuba Quartet (a group he co-found and manages), have also gained him worldwide acclaim. He began to compose for other genres as dozens of commissions from big-name brass artists to university and high school band directors began to come in. He now considers himself extremely lucky to be a full-time composer and arranger writing especially for Carl Fischer Music.

Forbes began his career as a tubist in the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" where he was also very fortunate to compose and arrange for the various ensembles in that prestigious unit. He left the band for a career in academia where he has served on the faculties of Illinois State University, Mary Washington University, Columbia Union College, and Frederick Community College. He continues to be an active freelance performer and has performed with a host of orchestras and bands throughout the United States. He can be heard on Summit Records on a number of Sotto Voce Quartet albums but also on his own solo recording Forbes Plays Koetsier, where he features all seven works for solo tuba by Dutch composer, Jan Koetsier. As a conductor, Forbes served as the musical director of the Brass Band of Central Illinois and has guest conducted numerous elements of the U.S. Army Band. He is highly in demand as a guest conductor with junior- and senior-high honor bands and youth brass bands.

Forbes studied with some of the most well-known tuba pedagogues in the world to include composer/tubist, John Stevens. He received his DMA at the University of Maryland, MM at the University of Wisconsin and a BM at the Pennsylvania State University. During his junior year at Penn State he took an exchange to Manchester, England where he continued his studies at the University of Manchester and the Royal Northern College of Music. His time in England afforded him the opportunity to grow intimately familiar with the British Brass Band Tradition, from which he draws a great deal of his compositional influence.



Copyright © 2008 by Carl Fischer, LLC
International Copyright Secured.

All rights reserved including performing rights.

WARNING! This composition is protected by Copyright law. To photocopy or reproduce by any method is an infringement of the Copyright law. Anyone who reproduces copyrighted matter is subject to substantial penalties and assessments for each infringement.

Printed in the U.S.A.











BAS39 — \$40.00 Set BAS39F — \$6.00 Full Score BAS39P — \$2.75 Parts

CARL FISCHER®

65 Bleecker Street, New York, NY 10012 www.carlfischer.com ISBN 0-8258-6719-3

UPC