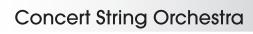
FULL SCORE



Grade 3



The Blacksmith

English Folk Song

Arranged by

Sean O'Loughlin

CAS47 INSTRUMENTATION

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

About the Arrangement

The Blacksmith is an old English folk song that I first encountered through a singer named Aoife O'Donovan. She was performing with the Boston Pops Orchestra, and I was fortunate to be hired to orchestrate the song for her. A blacksmith was a popular hero in many folk songs of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It was usually because of their characteristic physique and reputation for ardor and staying power. Musically, the melody is rather haunting, although the meter is a little strange. The arrangement is written in $\frac{4}{4}$ time throughout, despite the fact that the melody often ends on beat 3 of the third measure of the phrase.

This arrangement begins with a slow and ominous presentation of the melody. You may consider having a solo first Violin from mm.1–13 if you have a player you want to feature. They should return to *tutti* at m. 14. This ominous opening leads right into an energetic fast section. Melody fragments are used as a transition to a fast presentation of the melody. Keep the pizzicato crisp in the cellos and basses to sustain the forward motion. Bring out mm. 24 and 28 as a response to the melody. The first violins take over at m. 37. Again, keep the pizzicato crisp in the rest of the ensemble. Bring out the accents in the transition passage between mm. 52–56 to drive into the presentation by the cellos and basses. After playing around with melody fragments, a full presentation returns at m. 75. Sustain this energy through m. 89, then pull back a bit at m. 90. An echo of the melody follows in the pizzicato cellos and basses. A crescendo to forte ends the piece triumphantly.

About the Arranger

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is a fresh voice and a rising name in the music world. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Commissions from the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra highlight and showcase his diverse musical abilities. As a conductor, he has led performances with the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Grant Park Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra. He was the conductor and arranger for a recent orchestral tour with the band The Decemberists.

As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with such artists as Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Christian McBride, Belle and Sebastian, Nickel Creek, Jamie Cullum, and others. The Los Angeles Times calls his orchestrations "...colorful," while adding "...even more dimension..." to the compositions. Daily Variety heralds Sean's writing as "most impressive ..." with a "wide range of coloring in the orchestra..." that "...adds heft and rolling energy."

Growing up in Syracuse, New York, Sean displayed a passion for music and showed musical talent at an early age. Sean benefited from loving parents who supported his musical aspirations and challenged him to explore music as a career. During his undergraduate years at Syracuse University, Sean's musical career began to take shape with the guidance of Larry Clark. As Vice-President at Carl Fischer Music, Larry continues to be a major influence in Sean's professional career as mentor and friend.

An avid supporter of music education, Sean frequently writes for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's youth concert series. Through his growing number of commissions and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University. His music is published exclusively by Carl Fischer. Sean and his wife Dena reside in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit Sean's website at www.grayslacks.com.

The Blacksmith



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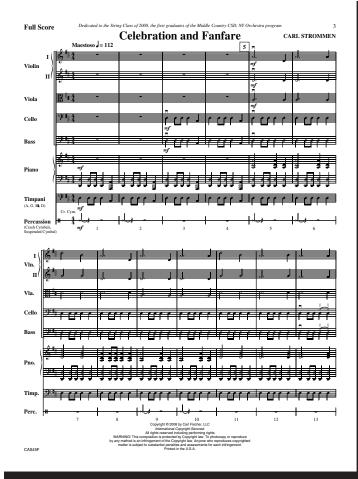




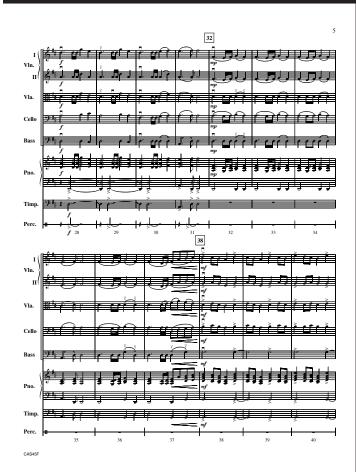




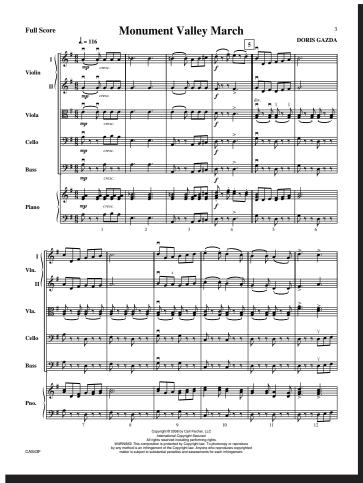


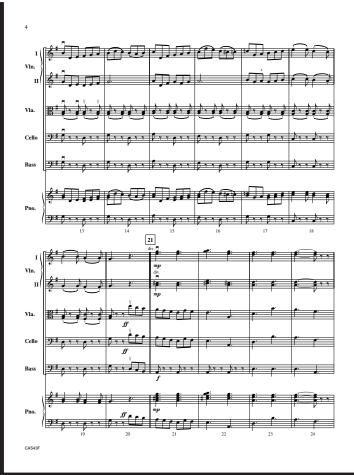












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