**Concert String Orchestra** 

Grade 3



# Confluence

# Sean O'Loughlin

## CAS52 INSTRUMENTATION

ull Score	1
/iolin l	8
/iolin II	8
/iolin III (Viola T.C.)	2
/iola .`	
Cello	5
Bass	5
Piano	1

#### **Program Notes**

Confluence is a dramatic work for the maturing string orchestra. The roots of the piece stem from a solo piano work I composed while still in college. I always wanted to expand this piece for strings, and the opportunity finally presented itself. The word "confluence" means a coming together of people or things: a concourse. For me, this piece symbolizes the coming together of two time periods in my writing.

The music is full of expansive phrases that provide important teaching moments. All too often, our lives are fast and furious, and we perform music that resembles that. This piece gives us time to reflect and cherish the beauty that lies within slower music. The opening reflects my love of the music of twentieth-century American composers. This simple, yet haunting motive is the backbone of the entire work. There is some dissonance, but it is tasteful and moves towards resolution. Bring out this dissonance to create the tension and release that is so important to this piece. The tempo is marked as quarter note equals 60, but feel free to perform this piece in a *rubato* style. Be sure to take your time at the end of phrases for the most dramatic effect. After the deliberate opening, the music should flow more freely with a lift to it at m. 14. This lift relaxes at m. 27 and leads into the primary build-up at m. 34. Take your time at m. 35 for the climax of the piece. A secondary climax happens at m. 43, which should be slightly softer than at m. 35. The dynamics should abruptly change to soft at m. 44. The melody then returns in the violin at m. 47 as an epilogue to the music from before. Allow the final note to fade off in the distance for an emotional ending.

#### **About the Composer**

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 Boston Pops Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, 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 Natalie Merchant, Chris Isaak, Feist, Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Christian McBride, Belle and Sebastian, Josh Ritter, 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 web-site at www. grayslacks.com.



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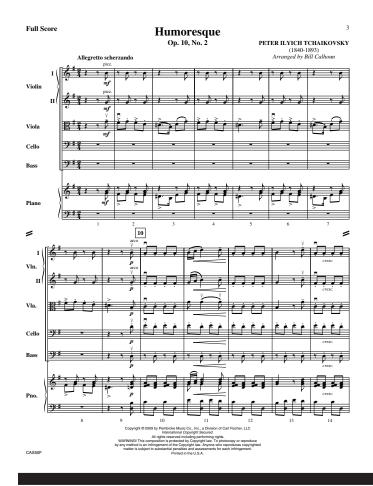


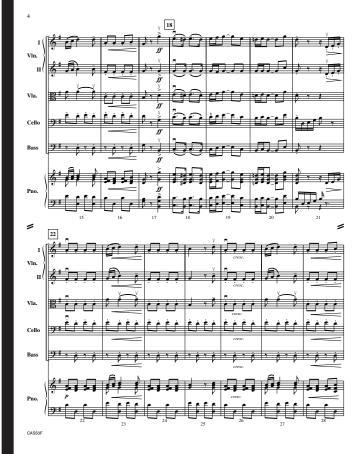




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