Kjos String Orchestra Grade 4 Full Conductor Score SO124F \$5.00

Richard A. Stephan

Arranger





The Arranger

Richard Stephan taught instrumental music and was a coordinator of music in the public schools of New York state for many years. In 1980, he conducted the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics and as a Fulbright Senior Scholar, in 1984, he lectured throughout Australia.

The winner of the 1986 National School Orchestra Association Composition Contest, Mr. Stephan has over twenty published compositions and arrangements. His string orchestra compositions and arrangements published by the Neil A. Kjos Music Company include "Adirondack Sleighride," "Australian Folk Suite," "Cats & Dogs," "Dance in D," "Two German Folksongs," "Vanguard Overture" and "Variations on a Well-Known Sea Chantey."

Since 1968, Mr. Stephan has been Professor of Music at the Crane School of Music, Potsdam College, State University of New York where he teaches strings and conducts the Symphony Orchestra.

The Arrangement

Fantasia on a 17th Century Tune (formerly published as "Meditation") begins mysteriously with tremolo in the upper strings and fragments of the melody played pizzicato by the rest of the string orchestra. As the celli begin the theme in measure 7, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," the upper strings accompany with open sounding chords. This ethereal effect can be enhanced in the accompaniment by playing slightly over the fingerboard and using very little vibrato. Beginning in measure 14, chromaticism is heard in the accompaniment. It is especially critical that the melody and accompaniment are played with purity of tone and accurate intonation for the most convincing effect.

Work for a rich, flowing tone throughout measures 23 - 42. The cello line should be clearly heard in the variation beginning at measure 43. In measures 66 - 72, the string basses need to play the pizzicato notes with a warm tone. After the climax at measure 95, the decrescendo that follows is very gradual and the tempo unhurried. Return to the serene mood at measure 118 and gradually work up to the triumphal final statement at measure 136. Observe carefully the divisi in the codetta. It is important that the cello line is heard as it utters the last fragment of the minor theme against the major chord in the upper strings.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 1st Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- 1 Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

Fantasia on a 17th Century Tune

(formerly published as "Meditation")

Full Conductor Score Approx. time - 6:10

arr. Richard A. Stephan (revision 1995)



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