A GRAINGER SUITE

PERCY ALDRIDGE GRAINGER

Arranged by ROBERT D. McCASHIN

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 5 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass





THE ARRANGER

Robert D. McCashin, DMA, is Professor Emeritus and former Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at James Madison University. He recently retired from academe after a 43-year career of conducting and applied string teaching at the college/university level. He earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in violin performance from Louisiana State University and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from the University of Arizona. He was awarded JMU's Distinguished Teacher Award for the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 2015.

From 1992 through 2016, Dr. McCashin was Music Director for the JMU Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Opera Orchestras, and taught all

relevant orchestral conducting and academic courses within the MM and DMA orchestral conducting curricular core, as well as applied studio strings. Dr. McCashin, a violinist, has been a successful writer and arranger of educational publications, having now published nearly 80 works for the Grade I through V educational performance levels. Many of his arrangements have become bestsellers and Editors' Choice selections in the educational music arena.

Prior to his position at James Madison University, Dr. McCashin served on the faculties of the University of Texas at Arlington and Texas Wesleyan University. During his tenure in Texas he performed with the Fort Worth Symphony, Fort Worth Opera Orchestra, Wichita Falls Symphony, Gallery String Quartet, and the University Piano Trio, and performed extensively as a freelance violinist throughout the North Texas region. He was the founding conductor of the Arlington Youth Symphony, served as conductor for the Trinity Symphony and the Arlington Opera Association, and associate conductor of the Youth Orchestras of Greater Fort Worth. In addition, he maintained a substantial private violin studio of students at all levels. He is co-author of the popular string class methods, New Directions® for Strings and A Scale in Time, published by The FJH Music Company Inc.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

The movements in this suite serve as a wonderful introduction to the music of Percy Aldridge Grainger. Known for his fast harmonic language and unique treatment of folk songs, Grainger collected and transcribed countless tunes, often applying his own unique style in the arrangement. *Country Gardens* is a tune he came across in 1908, but did not complete a performable arrangement of it for another 10 years. *Irish Tune From County Derry*, also known as *O Danny Boy*, is one of his most beautiful settings, and this arrangement seeks to capture the beautiful melodic lines and his close, tight harmonies. It offers a wonderful opportunity to feature the cello section. The suite ends with the playful *Children's March*, one of his original works.

-Robert D. McCashin

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I. Over the Hills and Far Away





decresc.

p

D.B.

II. Irish Tune from County Derry







III. Country Gardens







