Young String Ensemble Series

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 4 Violin 3
- 4 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 2 Double Bass
- 1 Piano

Poppies

(An Anthem for Remembrance)

by Loreta Fin

Duration: 3:00

Level: 2

Program and Rehearsal Notes

The Poppy is the enduring symbol of remembrance of the First World War. Based on the Last Post (or Taps), this slow, dignified work reflects the reverence of a hymn or chorale. The first 4 bars can be played by a soloist if desired. Bowing should be smooth and even, building to the climax in m51, then taper off to the ending, fading into the distance. Designed to be played at remembrance events, this work can be taught quickly to elementary or more senior groups alike. It is suited to a school assembly performance. In Australia, this would be played on Anzac Day, April 25, or Remembrance Day, November 11. Thank you to my colleague Stuart, a string teacher with Education Qld, based on the Sunshine Coast, who suggested that string orchestras need something to play at such events, in a string-friendly key.

Loreta Fin was Director of Strings at Somerville House School for Girls in Brisbane, Australia for 35 years. She conducted the String Orchestras at the school at primary, middle and secondary levels. All of these ensembles received Platinum Awards in competitions over the years. Loreta has presented at National and International conferences. She has conducted the String Orchestras at both the Queensland State Honours and Australian Honours Ensemble Programs over several years. From 2000 to 2004, Loreta was Queensland State President of Austa (Australian Strings Association) and served as the National President from 2005 to 2007. She is also a Federal Examiner with the Australian Music Examinations Board and an advisor on several music education boards.

Loreta studied at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has performed regularly as a freelance musician in chamber music and orchestral concerts, as well as in musical theatre. She has been Principal Violist with the Queensland Pops Orchestra for over 30 years. Well known as an experienced educator and adjudicator, Loreta has also written over 100 publications for young string orchestras, which are frequently selected as set works for competitions and festivals. Loreta's aim is to bring an appreciation and enjoyment of music to as many young string players as possible, while teaching valuable rhythmic and technical skills in an enjoyable way. She has received State and National Awards in recognition of her service to AUSTA and the String and Music Communities of Australia.

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