

Welcome to San Juan

For String Orchestra, Grade 1
by Di3n Morales (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C).
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass
1 - Rehearsal Piano
2 - Percussion (Claves, Shaker)

Note from the Editor:

This grade 1 piece teaches students latin rhythm in an approachable manner, through literal call and response and repetition. Seconds and Violas double, as do Cellos and Basses. Simple percussion parts add to the authentic nature of the piece.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$55.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



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Welcome to San Juan

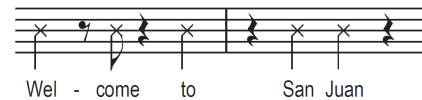
By Di3n Morales, Grade 1

Program Notes:

It was an amazing day when, for the first time, I got to sit and play with musicians I grew up listening to at church and parties. My father (Pedro Luis Morales), who played percussion for the Puerto Rican folk band based out of our church, handed me a set of claves during one of their rehearsals and guided my hands to play the clave rhythm for the first time. It only took a few tries before I was grooving on my own and fell in love with music making. What I find amazing about this moment is that there was no counting or music reading. It was simply about making sounds that grooved together and creating that feeling of forward motion. This pattern is something that I had heard and moved to all my life. An expression of something that was ingrained in me without me even being aware of it. In my training as a music teacher I had always been taught that patterns like the Clave were considered "hard" due to complexities of reading syncopations. This is reflected by a lack of literature that uses Caribbean grooves for young players. I wrote this for my students to prove that beginners can groove too!

Performance Note:

The title of this piece is a mnemonic device to teach the Clave Rhythm.



I highly suggest teaching this rhythm by rote first. Here is the teaching sequence I used with my students. (Repeat each step as needed for mastery)

- Start by using a maraca or metronome to play the 8th note subdivision.
- Have students repeat the clave rhythm after you with their voice using the mnemonic device "Wel-come to - San Juan!"
- Have students now echo you by playing pizzicato on their open D string.
- Have students now try changing notes on every syllable. I suggest using D E F# G A
- Add the bow and do 2 sequences in a row so that they get a feel for starting the pattern down bow the first time and up bow the second time, starting with open strings only.
- Create as many of these sequences as you would like. This makes a great warm up!
- Once they are grooving, pass out the music and show them what the rhythm looks like. Remind them that each time they see it to simply remember, "Wel-come to - San Juan!"

For added style and effect put a tenuto on the 2nd beat of the 2nd measure of the clave rhythm. If you only use one of the percussion parts in this piece make sure that it's the maraca! Nearly all Caribbean dance music has some sort of shaker type instrument that is a part of the rhythmic backdrop. Hearing the 8th notes created by the maraca will allow your students to feel and place the Clave rhythms more accurately. The interaction of these 8th notes with the syncopation will create our groove. When my students played this piece I played the maraca with my right hand and used my left to add cues as needed. Also don't be afraid to dance a little!



About the Composer

Di3n (pronounced: dee-own) Morales was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois with his wife and two daughters. He began his orchestral studies as a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. He received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music in 2010 and returned to VanderCook for his Masters degree, which was completed in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010. The arranging of music by minority composers for school orchestra programs is a project that he has been developing since 2020. Music from this project has been performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic and has won multiple awards. Alongside his arrangements, Dion is also passionate about writing original works for student ensembles at all levels. As an educator and composer he has used his experience in the classroom to create pieces that students enjoy as well as providing appropriate challenges for ensembles at various levels. Di3n is married to Devon Morales. She is the department chair and head orchestra director at Lane Tech, as well as a fellow composer and arranger.

Welcome to San Juan

Score
Grade 1
Duration 2:00

Di3n Morales
(ASCAP)

Con Alegria ♩ = 140

Teacher Chant

Violin 1

Violin 2
(Viola T.C.)

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Rehearsal Piano

Percussion
(Claves / Maracas)

Claves

mf

1 2 3 4

5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

mf

5 6 7 8

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. pizz.

D.B. pizz.

Pno.

Perc. Maracas *mf*

9 10 11 12 13

17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

14 15 16 17 18

The image displays a musical score for the piece 'Welcome to San Juan'. It is a multi-staff score for a chamber ensemble. The instruments included are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 9 through 13, and the second system covers measures 14 through 18. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The percussion part is specifically identified as 'Maracas' and is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and articulation marks. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Randall Standridge Music' is overlaid across the center of the page. Measure numbers 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 are printed below their respective measures. A box containing the number '9' is located at the top left of the first system, and a box containing '17' is at the top left of the second system.

Score for Welcome to San Juan, measures 19-23.

Instrument parts shown:

- Vln. 1
- Vln. 2
- Vla.
- Vc.
- D.B.
- Pno.
- Perc.

Measures 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 are indicated below the staves.

Score for Welcome to San Juan, measures 24-28.

Instrument parts shown:

- Vln. 1
- Vln. 2
- Vla.
- Vc.
- D.B.
- Pno.
- Perc.

Measures 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 are indicated below the staves. Dynamic markings *f* and *arco* are present in measures 25 and 26.

33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

29 30 31 32 33

mp

mf

mp

mf

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

34 35 36 37 38

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

mf

mf

mf

mf

39 40 41 42 43

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

p

p

p

p

p

44 45 46 47 48

p

49

49

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f*

Pno. *f*

Perc. *f*

49 50 51 52 53

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

54 55 56 57 58

59

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

D.B. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Perc. *ff*

59 60 61 62

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

63 64 65 66