

FULL SCORE

Beginning String Orchestra



CARL FISCHER

PERFORMANCE

SERIES

Grade 1

Great Plains Saga

Joseph Compello

BAS80
INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	2
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5
Piano	1

About the Composition

Great Plains Saga is an easy concert piece for a young string ensemble. The music should be performed in a manner which evokes the rustic openness of the American continent at the time when Native American tribes inhabited it. Accordingly, the music is modal and thus provides an ancient character to the melodies. The first theme appearing at m. 9 consists of six notes. It repeats at m. 17 in the cello part with a countermelody in the violins. After a brief transition m. 25, the second section begins with a quiet two-measure phrase that is answered *forte* by the low strings. This call-and-response episode continues until m. 43 where the transition to the opening theme begins. At m. 49 the director may wish to slow the tempo just a bit to give the music a heavier feel. The coda at m. 57 may be played freely and dramatically.

About the Composer

Joseph Compello discovered his love of music when, as a child, he saw the Centennial Celebration Parade in his hometown, Carbondale, Pennsylvania. After his family moved to Baltimore, Maryland, he began studying euphonium with Robert Kennick of the Baltimore Symphony. By the time he was an 11th grader at Patterson Park High School, his band director, Clarence Wroblewski, recommended Compello for a scholarship to the Peabody Conservatory Preparatory School. While studying there, he came to the attention of the conductor of the Peabody Conservatory Wind Ensemble, Dr. Richard L. Higgins, who invited him to be a regular member of his ensemble. Upon graduating from high school, Compello auditioned for the undergraduate course of musical studies at the Peabody Conservatory. Among the adjudicating panel was Peter Mennin the Conservatory's director. During his six year tenure with the Peabody Wind Ensemble, Compello performed all of the major repertoire for wind bands up to that time. After earning his undergraduate degree, and subsequently his Master's Degree from Towson University, Compello entered the teaching profession. From the very beginning of his 31 year career, he composed and arranged music to meet the specific skills of his students. In 1994, Andrew Balent, then editor of Carl Fischer's educational music division, began publishing many of Compello's classroom-tested compositions. His debut publication was a march for beginning band titled *Cadets on Parade*. In 1996 his best-seller *Rock to the Max*, Mr. Sax earned him a regular spot on the Carl Fischer writing staff. In 1999, Larry Clark continued to publish Compello's music while encouraging him to expand his writing style. Now retired from teaching with over 160 published works to his credit, Compello continues to draw on his extensive background in music education to compose new music exclusively for Carl Fischer's Performance Series.

His music for young players is now a model for college curricular study by music education students. A master's thesis by Abel Borg entitled "The resourceful and engaging compositions for beginning band by Joseph Compello" is available at: <http://gradworks.umi.com/MR/75/MR75572.html>

Compello's journey from school teacher to internationally published composer was recently chronicled in the Baltimore Sun. His ASCAP award winning music is now performed worldwide in venues ranging from school concerts to Carnegie Hall.

Great Plains Saga

Con forza (♩=132-144)

JOSEPH COMPELLO

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Piano

1 2 3 4 5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

6 7 8 9 10

Score for measures 11 through 16. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked with a 'V' (Vivace). The score includes a large red watermark: "For promotional use only".

Measures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.

Score for measures 17 through 22. The instruments are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked with a 'V' (Vivace). The score includes a large red watermark: "For promotional use only".

Measures 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.

37

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

33 34 35 36 37

38 39 40 41 42 43

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

44 45 46 47 48

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

49

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

49 50 51 52 53 54

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff



6 80160 90912 4