**Concert String Orchestra** 



Grade 3

# Bravery and Grace

George Sweet

## CASS9 INSTRUMENTATION

 Full Score
 1

 Violin I
 8

 Violin III
 8

 Violin III (Viola T.C.)
 2

 Viola
 5

 Cello
 5

 Bass
 5

 Piano
 1

#### **About the Composition**

Bravery and Grace is a setting of the unofficial Scottish national anthem Scotland the Brave. While the melody is taken from Scotland the Brave, the accompaniment and harmony both have a "Western Americana" feel, reminiscent of composers like Roy Harris and Aaron Copland. This combination of a Scottish melody with American harmony is a reflection of the composer's Scottish-American heritage.

The piece begins with a fragment of *Scotland the Brave* presented in a lush and reflective context. The main theme is performed in full by the first violins at m. 9. The second violins perform the material at m. 17, and the low strings perform it again at m. 33. This results in a loud passage representing pipers at m. 46. The traditional spiritual *Amazing Grace* appears suddenly at m. 51 in a somewhat polytonal setting. This is, once again, reminiscent of practices of the aforementioned American composers. After this lyrical presentation, a fragment of the main theme returns at m. 66. This is followed by a broad restatement of the main theme at m. 70 and a brisk conclusion with a final flash of polytonality.

#### **About the Composer**

George Sweet was born in York County, South Carolina, in 1979. He received a Master's Degrees in Composition and Instrumental Conducting from Northern Arizona University and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Mars Hill University. George's music has been performed worldwide and has been heard at various State and Regional Honor Band and Orchestra Festivals, Disney's Magic Music Days, Bands of America, the College Band Directors National Association Southwest Conference, the Concurso de Musica Festival at the Nueva Acropolis in Peru, the Melbourne School Band and Strings Festival in Australia, Interlochen Summer Arts Camp, and the Midwest Clinic. His various commissions include those from professional performers, public schools, university ensembles, and also a video game under a grant from the Hewlett Foundation. George has taught Theory, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra at both public school and university levels. He is a member of ASCAP and is the recipient of multiple ASCAP awards for concert music. George has also received awards from the American Prize in Composition and the Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Composition Competition, sponsored by Warner Bros. Publications. George is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, MENC, and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi. His music is published exclusively by Carl Fischer Publications of New York. For more information about the music of George Sweet, please visit www.georgesweet.net.

### **Bravery and Grace**

#### GEORGE SWEET



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Pno.

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