

## BEST PICS FOR STRING MUSIC

By **Brendan McBrien, Venado Middle School, Irvine Unified School District/Composer**

“Mr. McBrien, how come the bands get all the cool music?” Anonymous Venado orchestra student, circa 1991

Just in the last ten years, publishers have focused more attention on producing dynamic and interesting string music. Here are some strong choices, tried-and-true!

- Adra's Dance, by McBrien (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- Air for Strings, by Dello Joio (Gd. 3, Edward B. Marks)
- Allegro, from Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 1, by Handel, arr. Dackow (Gd. 3, Ludwig)
- \*Andante Festivo, by Sibelius (Gd. 3, Lucks)
- Arlington Sketches, by Del Borgo (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- Dance of Iscariot, by Mosier (Gd. 3, Kjos)
- Diversions, by McBrien (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- Dorian Variations, by Williams (Gd. 2, Alfred)
- \*Elegy, by Elgar (Gd. 4, Lucks)
- Espressivo, by Nelhybel (Gd. 2, J. Christopher Music Co.)
- Fantasia for Strings, by Del Borgo (Gd. 2, Belwin)
- Farewell Symphony, (first movement) by Haydn, arr. Jasinski (Gd. 4, Highland/Etling)
- The Game, by McBrien (Gd. 4, Kjos)
- Geometric Dances, by Meyer, (Gd. 3, Kjos)
- Legend, by O'Fallon (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- \*Little Suite, by Nielson (Gd. 5, Lucks)
- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, arr. Goldsmith (Gd. 3, Belwin)
- Lullaby and The Gift, by Hofeldt (Gd. 3, Kjos)
- Mantras, by Meyer (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- \*Nocturne, by Fauré (Gd. 3, Lucks)
- \*Rakastaa, by Sibelius (Gd. 5, Lucks)
- \*Romance, by Sibelius (Gd. 4, Lucks)
- Rustic Dance, by Del Borgo (Gd. 1.5, Kendor)
- Serenade, by Gustovson (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- \*Serenade, by Larsson (Gd. 4, Lucks)
- Sinfonia in D Major, by J.C. Bach, arr. Dackow (Gd. 3, Ludwig)
- Sinfonia in D, by Del Borgo (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- Star Dancer, by Williams (Gd. 1, Alfred)
- Symphony No. 47 in G Major (finale), by Haydn, arr. Dackow (Gd. 4, Ludwig)
- \*Three Little Pieces, by Haydn (Gd. 3, Lucks)
- \*Three Little Pieces, by Schubert (Gd. 3, Lucks)
- \*Three Mannheim Sinfonias, by J. Stamitz (Gd. 4, Lucks)
- Three Scenes from a Green Valley, by Harbison (Gd. 2, Highland/Etling)
- Twilight Sleigh Ride, by McBrien (Gd. 3, Highland/Etling)
- Two English Dances, arr. O'Reilly (Gd. 2, Alfred)
- \*Two Icelandic Melodies, by Svendsen (Gd. 2, Lucks)
- \*Two Swedish Folksongs, by Svendsen (Gd. 2, Lucks)
- Wexford Circle, by Del Borgo (Gd. 1, Kendor)

\* Represents works from the standard repertoire.

Also, [The Instrumentalist](#) article “Beyond Bach and Beethoven”, December 1999 has some wonderful suggestions.