

# **PASSO MEZZO**

from Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite No. 1

OTTORINO RESPIGHI

Arranged by

Robert D. McCashin

#### Instrumentation

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 5 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts. a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.



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## The Arranger

Robert D. McCashin, DMA, is Professor Emeritus and former Director of Orchestras and Professor of Conducting at James Madison University. He recently retired from academe after a 43-year career of conducting and applied string teaching at the college/university level. He was awarded JMU's Distinguished Teacher Award for the College of Visual and Performing Arts in 2015. From 1992 through 2016, Dr. McCashin was Music Director for the JMU Symphony, Chamber Orchestra and Opera Orchestra. He taught all relevant orchestral conducting and academic courses within the MM and DMA orchestral conducting curricular core, as well as applied studio strings.

Dr. McCashin, a violinist, has been a successful writer and arranger of educational publications, having now published more than 100 works for the Grade I through V educational performance levels. He has been a regular guest conductor for a variety of orchestral ensembles, including regional and all-state orchestras across the U.S. as well as regional professional orchestras. He has been invited to present more than 30 conducting workshops and seminars for national and state level teacher conferences throughout the U.S. Dr. McCashin is a Founder, Past President and former National Board member for the College Orchestra Directors Association.

### **About the Music**

Ottorino Respighi was an Italian composer who lived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Born in 1879, his works include full orchestra compositions, operas, ballet music, chamber music and choral works. Some of his best-known works include: Pines of Rome, La Boutique Fantasque (The Fantastique Toyshop), Trittico Botticelliano (Three Botticelli Pictures), Gli Uccelli (The Birds), and his Ancient Airs and Dances suites, which are based on lute music from the Renaissance era.

A substantial number of Respighi's smaller orchestral works were created through a process of transcription, creating new uses, styles and colors (particularly through instrument selection and orchestration techniques) for music originally written in prior musical periods, even centuries earlier.

Passo Mezzo (e mascherada) comes from Respighi's Ancient Airs and Dances, Suite 1, completed in 1917. The original late 16th century Renaissance lute music was composed by Anonymous, meaning the original material was written by a composer who has not yet been identified. Enjoy this well-crafted string orchestra setting of the spritely final movement of Respighi's first suite. Challenging in style but totally worth the effort!

- Dr. Robert McCashin

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