

Amen Chorus from “The Messiah”

George Frideric Handel
(1685-1759)

Arranged by Vanessa Fanning
for STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass

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PUBLICATIONS

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About the Arranger

C. Vanessa Fanning, a native of Atlanta, Ga., is a renowned orchestra instructor, director, composer/arranger, adjudicator, and contractor. She received her Bachelors in Music Education from Georgia State University, Masters in Music Education from State University of West Georgia, and Ed.S from Georgia State University.

While having taught music on many different educational levels and in various settings for over 30 years, Mrs. Fanning realized the importance of having good music for all musicians to play, from beginners to professionals. Her company, F Clef Music has provided numerous compositions and arrangements for performing ensembles. Her selections have been included on several state and national orchestra music lists, and performed by numerous musicians around the country and abroad.

As an orchestra director, Mrs. Fanning's students have routinely given outstanding performances not only at school functions, but also at various venues throughout Georgia and the southeast region of the US.

Mrs. Fanning has been affiliated with numerous professional organizations including Music Educators National Conference, Georgia Music Educators Association, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, American String Teacher Association and the American Federation of Musicians.

Program Notes

This arrangement of George Frideric Handel's **Amen Chorus** is skillfully arranged for string orchestra. The fugue-like nature of the piece is the perfect setting for a chamber ensemble or orchestra. Each part is masterfully structured for the string musician with optimal use of bowings and phrasing. This classic is sure to be a classic for your ensemble as well.

Editor's Notes

Orchestral bowings and fingerings can be highly subjective and personal. The choices a string editor makes are designed to be pedagogically appropriate for specific grade levels while facilitating student musicality and honoring composer intent. The editorial additions in the following composition will provide guidance "right out of the box" for the non-string player and suggest some options for the advanced string specialist. Enjoy!

J. Cameron Law, String Editor

from "The Messiah"

Allegro moderato ♩ = 112

[illegible]

24

31

30

31

38

43

45

52

59

Adagio

Selected String Orchestra Publications

ENSEMBLE WORKS

BACH, J.S.

Nelhybel, Vaclav

50250005 Contrapunctus 1: from The Art of the Fugue (Grade 3)

Contrapunctus I is taken from The Art of the Fugue by Johann Sebastian Bach. It is a masterful study in the construction of the Baroque fugue and shows Bach at his chromatic best. Artfully adapted for string orchestra or string quintet by Vaclav Nelhybel, the work is an excellent opportunity for strings to play both fugue and chromatics in a contrapuntal fantasy.

DANIELS, M.L.

50250176 Two Points of Light (Grade 3)

These two contrasting works, Dancing Sunlight and Laser Beams, are perfect for achieving different sounds from your orchestra. Dancing Sunlight is in 6/8 and floats dreamily between major and minor modes. Laser Beams is much more direct, with running 16th-note passages for everyone and much more counterpoint between the sections. First violins will use 3rd position and solid counting skills are a definite plus!

DVORAK, ANTONIN

Hall, Percy

50250028 Largo from New World Symphony (Grade 3)

This arrangement is slightly abridged for difficulty but still contains all of the original themes from Dvorak's popular 'New World' symphony. The key is a half-step higher (two sharps) to make it more suitable for younger players. Familiar tunes within the context of the slow tempo make this a superb work for teaching bow movement, phrasing and tone quality.

GAMBA, SETH

50250207 Northwestern Blues (Grade 3)

Northwestern Blues is a rockin' 12-bar blues in G with a blues-scale based melody, a funky bass line, drum set, and buckets of soul! Northwestern Blues will give your students the chance to explore rock, jazz, optional improvisation, and a host of fun extended techniques in an instrumental setting that guarantees a rockin' good time! Northwestern Blues was commissioned by Northwestern Middle School in Milton, GA for the 2022 GMEA conference.

GRAINGER, PERCY ALDRIDGE

Longfield, Robert

50250068 Three Movements from Lincolnshire Posy for String Orchestra (Grade 3)

Long a staple of wind band literature, Lincolnshire Posy has never been set for any other medium. Robert Longfield has crafted this stunning arrangement for strings that has all of the Grainger style and spirit.

HAUTZENROEDER, GAYLEY

50250141 Sighting at Loch Ness (Grade 3)

A dramatic, mysterious, descriptive work in E minor, Sighting at Loch Ness is aimed at increasing musicianship in the orchestra. The first violin melody incorporates Scottish-sounding ornamentation and shifting and the harp (piano) has some intense glissandi. Violins perform glissandi to harmonics in preparation for shifting. If you include a fog machine, you might have some Nessie sightings in your own performance venue!

HULTGREN, RALPH

10250073 A Bark Gigue (Grade 3)

Based on the Australian folk song, The Old Bark Hut, this energetic 6/8 tune will be a hit with students and audience alike!

JOBIM, ANTONIO CARLOS

Lewis, Mike

M808590 Corcovado (Quiet Night of Quiet Stars) (Grade 3)

CORCOVADO (Quiet Night of Quiet Stars) will be a standout moment on any concert. The arrangement for strings and jazz rhythm section is an effective contrast to strings alone. Conservative ranges and friendly keys put this in the reach of good high school ensembles.

MENDELSSOHN, FELIX

Latham, Lynne

50250138 Artist March (Grade 3)

Here is the perfect alternative for Pomp and Circumstance. It is much easier on the orchestra and everyone plays the melody. All parts shift and use chromatic fingerings, and there is great opportunity to work on dotted rhythms and hooked bowings. The optional timpani part and ample number of repeats allows for incredible flexibility.

REZNICOW, JOSHUA

50250086 Jubilant Overture (Grade 3)

Scored for a full, resounding tone, Jubilant Overture is just what the title indicates. Its syncopated themes, bright tempos, and sophisticated scoring will energize your string orchestra immediately. Keep one hand on the baton and the other on your hat!

SHARP, THOM

50250185 Chicken Cha Cha (Grade 3)

Chicken Cha Cha for string orchestra delightfully expresses a day in a chicken's life, including the creative musical description of chickens running in the coop via dissonant eighth notes. All instruments have interesting parts to play, which represent different "chickens" dancing the Chicken Cha Cha. Through staccatos, dynamics, grace notes, precision counting, scales, instruments calling and responding to each other, and a legato passage, Thom Sharp's creative Chicken Cha Cha provides a fun piece to reinforce orchestral technique at a Level 3.

50250215 River Run (Grade 3)

River Run by Thom Sharp is a quick-paced grade 3 string orchestra piece in e minor. The first A section has most of the orchestra providing a syncopated rhythmic underpinning while the first violins take the lead with a flowing melody. The first B section is scored in the relative major and features long, flowing independent melody in the upper three voices. When the A section returns, we hear the melody first in the first violins. Then the cello and double basses take the melody while the upper three voices provide a voiced counterpoint. The B theme returns, played in octaves by the violins while the lower voices provide a rolling arpeggiated accompaniment. The final A section features an ostinato figure in the first violins while the second violins and the violas take the melody. The texture thins out as the pace slows to the final cadence.

SMETANA, BEDRICH

Wang, Albert

50250071 The Moldau (Grade 3)

The second of the six symphonic poems from Smetana's masterwork MA VLAST (My Country) describes the course of the Moldau River from its beginnings as two springs to its ends as a majestic and mighty river. The piece begins with a gentle, singing melody in the upper strings while the lower strings use pizzicato to sound like a babbling brook. Harmonic shifts and rhythmic changes ebb and flow until the original theme returns to conclude this stunningly beautiful work.

TRADITIONAL

Francis-Ma, Xinyu (Maggie)

50250183 Dance of Youth: Xinjiang Folk Song (Grade 3)

This joyful dance contains wonderful stylistic influences from the Xinjiang province of China. From syncopated accompaniment figures to soaring lyric melodies, this arrangement has it all. There is one key change in the middle from A minor to G minor and back. Beware of some chromatic twists, especially the augmented seconds in the 2nd theme. Violin 1 shifts to 3rd position and the cello part will sound much better if they have some shifting experience. Your orchestra will also use a variety of bow strokes, from long and legato to heavily accented.

VIVALDI, ANTONIO

Frackenhohl, Steven

10250063 Allegro in D for Strings (Grade 3)

One of Ludwig's all-time best sellers, teachers and students love this stirring arrangement of the first movement of Vivaldi's "Concerto in C for Two Trumpets, Op. 46, No. 1" that retains the characteristic "trumpet" sound of the original. This delightful concert selection for string orchestra has transferred the solo trumpet lines to the first and second violins.

WANG, ALBERT

50250036 The Brilliant Red Shandandan Flowers (Grade 3)

This song is as beautiful as the red flowers themselves. Rich harmonies transport the listener to the hillsides of Shanxi Province, home to the bright red blossoms. The song is widely popular in China and can be sung by nearly every adult in the country.

WOODRUFF, BUD

50250165 Beating the Rapids: from Buffalo River Suite (Grade 3)

A spirited, almost fiddle tune begins our journey down the river, with cascading 8th notes in each section. The drama builds with a modulation to D, with figures representing the whitewater rush. The G major section returns, leading to another modulation to C and a beautiful viola solo, backed by the other principal strings. The entire orchestra plays the more romantic and restful theme with our successful trip down the river to camp. There is minimal 3rd position for Violin 1 only, and the soloists will also have to shift.

Selected String Orchestra Publications

ENSEMBLE WORKS

ADLER, SAMUEL

10250078 Concertino No. 3 (Grade 4)

A sophisticated, original three-movement work for string orchestra, this is a terrific addition to the repertoire. Opening with great energy and moving sixteenth notes in the first movement, the second begins quietly and builds large chords with brief melodic passages. The final movement is dance-like, winding to an exciting conclusion. All parts get equal time in the spotlight and independence is vital. A great work.

ATWELL, SHIRL JAE

50250186 Complexus (Grade 4)

Recurring asymmetric ostinato figures drive this hypnotic piece, punctuated by harmonically lush cadences. Works well either as an opener or pre-intermission cliffhanger. It is also a fun way to warm up those fingers and counting skills in rehearsal!

52250246 Coventry Carol 2000 (Grade 4)

52250240 Meander

BACH, J.S.

Doan, Gerald R.

10250117 Fugue in G Minor, The Little (Grade 4)

One of the most recognizable of J.S. Bach's works for organ has been carefully arranged for strings. Careful attention to rhythmic accuracy and balance will pay huge dividends in this important work. Appropriate for concerts and festivals.

BACH, J.S.

Hall, Percy

20250012 Two Gavottes

BACH, J.S.

Latham, Lynne

52250226 Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 for String Orchestra (Grade 4)

Bach's famous "Brandenburg Concertos" are considered by many to be the pinnacle of the Baroque Concerto Grosso style. Written in G Major, this workout for inner voices includes optional 3rd violin.

50244107 Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 for String Orchestra

Bach's famous "Brandenburg Concertos" are considered by many to be the pinnacle of the Baroque Concerto Grosso style. These arrangements of the "Brandenburgs" for string orchestra by Lynne Latham have become much-used by adult and youth ensembles alike.

52250224 Brandenburg Concerto No. 6 for String Orchestra

Grade 4 * In this arrangement in G Major, violins use 2nd/4th position.

BIZET, GEORGES

Hall, Percy

20250011 Intermezzo

CHAMINADE, CECILE

Levin, Andrew

50250143 Danse Creole (Grade 4)

This charming dance features translucent harmony as only Chaminade can write. There are dramatic moments of rubato that will force your group to grow musically. There is a need for some skill in bowing and a good deal of chromaticism along with some extended range.

CLARKE, JEREMIAH

Hall, Percy

20250472 Trumpet Voluntary

CORELLI, ARCANGELO

Hall, Percy

20250482 Prelude and Rondeau

DANIELS, M.L.

52250352 Hill Country Suite (Grade 4)

50250082 Rockwood Dance (Grade 4)

Contemporary, rhythmic, and driving, Rockwood Dance is a showcase for the string orchestra. Challenges abound in each and every part as tonal centers shift rapidly. The excitement never flags!

FAURE, GABRIEL-URBAIN

Sharp, Thom

52250923 Mandoline (Grade 4)

The beautiful sounds of Gabriel Faure's beloved vocal work are perfect for string orchestra! Lovely soaring melodies are met by breathtaking harmonies, and lyrical passages move fluidly from section to section, making this one of the most expressive works your students will play this year.

FAURE, GABRIEL-URBAIN

Simpson, Carl

M800490 Pavane for String Orchestra (Grade 4)

The Pavane, Op. 50, is by French composer Gabriel Fauré written in 1887. It was originally a piano piece, but is better known in Fauré's version for orchestra and optional chorus. Obtaining its rhythm from the slow processional Spanish court dance of the same name, the Pavane ebbs and flows from a series of harmonic and melodic climaxes, conjuring a haunting Belle Époque elegance. This version is arranged for String Orchestra by Carl Simpson.

FINE, MARSHALL

52250342 Riu, Riu, Chiu (Grade 4)

A rousing, challenging arrangement worth the effort! It is sure to be the highlight of any holiday concert.

FOSTER, STEPHEN COLLINS

Lewis, Mike

M806690 Beautiful Dreamer (Grade 4)

Mike Lewis' lush harmonic treatment of this Stephen Foster tune maximizes the string orchestra's beautiful tone quality. Chromatic, yet tonal, his approach will bring tears to the eyes of your listeners.

M807690 Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair

The lush harmonies that accompany this well-known melody will have you melting in your seat. It's simply that beautiful.

50250090 Oh! Susanna (Grade 4)

The lush harmonies and chromaticism bring an amazing depth and beauty to this wonderful folk song.

GRIEG, EDVARD

Rosenhaus, Steven

M800690 Peer Gynt Incidental Music Suite Set 1 for String Orchestra (Grade 4)

This set of Grieg's masterpieces includes Solveig's Dance, Deep in the Coniferous Forest, Anitra's Dance, and In The Hall Of The Mountain King. The StringMasters Series, based on the success of the Concertmasters Series, is a collection of full orchestra music carefully transcribed for string orchestras. This great literature has been arranged by master orchestrators and tested on string orchestras for years before its release!

M800890 Peer Gynt Suite Set 2

HALL, PERCY

20250572 A Merry Spanish Christmas

20250006 Appalachian Reflections

20250692 Coventry Carol, The

20250029 Dancing in the Street

20250478 Early American Suite

20250030 Get the Spirit

20250568 Joy to the World

20250022 March and Waltz for a Princess

20250023 Marche de Turenne

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More Music for String Orchestra

FULL ENSEMBLE WORKS

BLACKWOOD, MICHAEL

50250129 Rogue's Revenge (Grade 1.5)

An E minor driving rock beat and two sets of parts will allow you to combine absolute beginners and second year students with great success. The easier parts are all high 2s, simple rhythms, and use limited range. Advanced parts use 4th fingers, high and low 2s, and have some longer note values for developing counting skills. Adding a drumset helps keep the ensemble together.

CHAMINADE, CECILE

Levin, Andrew

50250143 Danse Creole (Grade 4)

This charming dance features translucent harmony as only Chaminade can write. There are dramatic moments of rubato that will force your group to grow musically. There is a need for some skill in bowing and a good deal of chromaticism along with some extended range.

GRAINGER, PERCY ALDRIDGE

Longfield, Robert

50250068 Three Movements from Lincolnshire Posy (Grade 3)

Long a staple of wind band literature, Lincolnshire Posy has never been set for any other medium. Robert Longfield has crafted this stunning arrangement for strings that has all of the Grainger style and spirit.

GRIESINGER, KATHRYN

50250105 Popcorn (Grade 1)

No bows required! This unison pizzicato piece for beginning strings and piano is perfect for the very first concert. Using only quarter rests and quarter notes of the D major scale, the upbeat tune gives students the chance to "pop" up out of their chairs in the middle section of the work. A delightful treat for young musicians and audiences alike!

KOLLER, INGRID

50250144 Adeste Fiddles (Grade 1.5)

A traditional carol with a distinctly non-traditional approach! Some old-time fiddling figures combine with the carol in a comfortable key of D major. Easy parts for violin, viola, and violoncello allow students who haven't advanced to extensions perform with success.

PACHELBEL, JOHANN

Svendsen, Johan Severin

52250498 First Finger Pachelbel (Grade 1)

REZNICOW, JOSHUA

52250538 American Sketches (Grade 4)

52250372 Eclipse (Grade 2)

50250133 Phantom's Night: Legends Of Cuba Road (Grade 2.5)

Perfect for your Halloween concert, this spooky piece in G minor has a good bit of divisi in the violins. There are two cello parts, one that shifts and one that does not. Special effects such as glissandi and tremolo abound, including heavy accents and easy double stops. Basses use half position extensively and there are many chromatic notes in all sections -- plus a cello solo!

ROSENHAUS, STEVEN

50250137 Tangled Tango (Grade 2)

Don't get your fingers tangled in the chromatic fingerings! Alternating arco and pizzicato makes things even more interesting (plus some hooked bowings for the fun of it). Everyone gets the melody, with the exception of the basses, who are kept occupied laying down the tango groove.

SAINT SAENS, CAMILLE

Hall, Percy

50250003 Danse Macabre (Grade 3)

There are very few cuts made in this eerie, phantasmal tour de force. At least two solo violinists are needed because of unusual tuning. Be ready for a frightened audience!

SANZ, GASPAR

Longfield, Robert

50250109 Canarios (Grade 2.5)

The guitar music of Gaspar Sanz retains its popularity to this day. This particular excerpt crackles with rhythmic vitality and a fascinating use of hemiola.

SEITZ, PAUL

52250362 Iowa Spring (Grade 2)

SHARP, THOM

50250080 Fiddle Faddle Hoedown (Grade 1)

Your first year players will fiddle their hearts out with this foot-stomper from Thom Sharp.

SMETANA, BEDRICH

Walters, Harold L.

50250071 The Moldau (Grade 3)

Smetana's epic My Country was exceeded in popularity only by his opera The Bartered Bride. The second of the six symphonic poems in the work describes the course of the Moldau River from its beginnings as two springs to its ends as a majestic and mighty river.

SVENDSEN, R. ANNE

52250338 Arpeggio Antics (Grade 1.5)

52250346 First Finger Suite (Grade 1)

50250087 Tango Por Uno (Grade 2.5)

An open string/first finger masterpiece, this work focuses on the tango rhythm and stretching that low first finger. Harmonically, there is some lovely, shocking dissonance -- just like a real tango!

TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER

Longfield, Robert

50250013 Nutcracker: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy (Grade 2)

Every holiday concert needs music from Tchaikovsky's immortal ballet, The Nutcracker. Robert Longfield's masterful transcription brings Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy into the range of grade 2 string orchestras. The celesta part has been made more 'user friendly,' having been scored for piano but can be played on celesta if one is available. The March and Waltz of the Flowers have also been adapted for use by your string orchestra.

50250014 Waltz of the Flowers (Grade 2)

As with the other Longfield arrangements from The Nutcracker, the piano adds much support to the string orchestra. The beloved Tchaikovsky melody will allow your group to 'sing' with their best tones. The March and Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy are published separately. A classic you'll come back to time and again.

VIVALDI, ANTONIO

Frackenpohl, Steven

10250063 Allegro in D for Strings (Grade 3)

One of Ludwig's all-time best sellers, teachers and students love this work.

WOODRUFF, BUD

50250145 Cedar Hollow (Grade 1.5)

Cedar Hollow is a small valley in the Ozarks. This work captures the essence and tranquility of the area. The optional harp part will enhance the ensemble wonderfully if used, while skillful writing makes the work playable with no shifting.

SOLO STRINGS WITH ENSEMBLE

HEWSON, DAVID G.

Latham, Lynne

54260001 Baroque Fantastique (Grade 3)

An intense, 16th-note driven homage to the baroque with a thrilling solo cello part which ventures into thumb position. Reminiscent of Palladio from the diamond commercial. Orchestra grade 3; solo grade 4½.

MCMICHAEL, CATHERINE

50260005 Esperance (Hope) (Grade 3)

Esperance (Hope) ventures into the realm of French impressionism, with luscious, thick harmonies and colorful orchestration for strings and harp. An easy grade 3 for strings, it allows your harp soloist to shine through.

MIXED INSTRUMENT(S)/ VOICE(S) WITH ENSEMBLE

SHARP, THOM

50250098 Kitchen Poltergeist (Grade 2)

You can add percussionists to your orchestra. Just give them a couple wooden spoons and step back! That's because anyone can play kitchen utensils in this spooky, imaginative offering from Thom Sharp.

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