An American Hymn

GRADE 1 • DURATION 2:55

by William Billings

(1746 - 1800)

arranged by Elliot A. Del Borgo

Playground String Orchestra Series



- 1 Full Score
- 8 1st Violin
- 8 2nd Violin5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 Cello 5 - Bass
- 1 opt. Piano

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To The Director

Chester is one of America's best known hymns. Written by William Billings, the tune has made its way into several concert compositions for bands and orchestras. The simple nobility of the melodic line, and its strong, solid harmonies, no doubt account for its enduring quality.

This setting should be played with full, smooth bowings to produce a warm, sustained tone. Be sure to emphasize the melodic aspect of all lines to enhance the cantabile nature of the work.

Strive to produce an aggressive, "gritty" effect at measure 49 to provide contrast, and do not be afraid to use the lower-half of the bow near the frog.

REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

ELLIOT DEL BORGO

Born in Port Chester, NY, he holds degrees from the State University of New York, Temple University and the Philadelphia Conservatory, where he studied with Vincent Persichetti. An award-winning member of ASCAP, former Professor of Music at the Crane School of Music, and composer of music for the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, much of Del Borgo's work is available from several leading publishers.







