Beaumont Rag

TRADITIONAL
Arranged by TIM McCARRICK

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
- 8 1st Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 3rd Violin (Viola &)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass

PROGRAM NOTES

Beaumont Rag is a traditional American fiddle tune that has become popular in contest fiddling and has been played by many great fiddlers, including Mark O'Connor and Natalie MacMaster. It is a catchy ragtime sort of melody that really lends itself to improvising flashy variations. Many are the stories of legendary fiddlers keeping their best variations a secret from the crowd, and especially the other fiddlers, until they dazzle the crowd at the contest!

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

When played by fiddlers in a contest, *Beaumont Rag* becomes essentially a 16-bar harmonic progression upon which all sorts of variations can be improvised. The first 16 bars present the main theme in the first violins. A common second theme is presented at bar 17; however, it's the cellos in the limelight. At 33, the basses get a simple walking bass line with everyone else accompanying them—sure to build bass morale! At 49, we hear a return of the main theme with a slight variation. At 65, we have a fiddle solo mostly in third position, and the finale, beginning at 85, uses a bowing pattern fiddlers often call the "Georgia shuffle." This is a 2-bar pattern of accented string crossings. Second violins and violas can do the pattern without string crossings, but first violins should cross strings. Practice this very slowly until it comes easy. All should have a great time doing it!

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All Belwin string parts have been carefully bowed and fingered appropriately by level. The Yellow Very Beginning series includes many bowings as well as reminder fingerings for first-time readers. The Red Beginning series includes frequent bowings to assist younger players. Fingerings for altered pitches are often marked. The Green Intermediate series includes appropriately placed bowings for middle-level students. Fingerings and positions are marked for notes beyond first position. The Blue Concert series includes bowings appropriate for the experienced high school player. Fingerings and position markings are indicated for difficult passages.

Bob PhillipsBelwin/Pop String Editor



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