# Armada

VICTOR LÓPEZ (ASCAP)

### **INSTRUMENTATION** -

- 1 Conductor
- 8 1st Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- 1 Piano Accompaniment
- 1 Drumset (Optional)

#### **PROGRAM NOTES**

Armada remembers the Spanish Armada that sailed against England 1588, with the intention of stopping English involvement in the Spanish Netherlands and English-sponsored piracy in the Atlantic. The fleet's mission was to sail to Flanders and transport a ground force of over 30,000 men across the Channel to England. The mission eventually failed due to Spanish strategic errors, bad weather, and early British attacks. The following year, England mounted a similar large-scale naval campaign against Spain known as the English Armada, which also failed.

#### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This work utilizes the first six notes of most string methods. In the 'A' section, the melody is written in an eight-bar phrase; however, it is broken into a 2/2/4 bar pattern. At the beginning, the viola has ostinato-like whole notes. Make certain the part is played in tune, without vibrato, and kept under the melody. At measure 17, the viola has a simple countermelody, which is repeated again at measure 37. Strive for balance with the melody. In this section, the staccato quarter notes should be played as if they were eighth notes with eighth rests in between; in other words, short with a bite. At rehearsal number 25, the melody is in the cello and string bass. Work on balance and have the string bass come out a bit more. Measure 33 begins a short 4-measure interlude leading back to the 'B' section, which now has a simple rhythmic variation in the cello and bass. Note that although this work includes a piano and drumset part, the composition will sound full just with the string parts. In the absence of a drumset, two individual players can cover the part—one on snare drum and the other on bass drum or tambourine. *Armada* is one of those pieces that will make very young musicians sound as if they have been playing a lot longer. This one is a guaranteed winner at your first concert!

## 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 Phillips**Belwin/Pop String Editor















