

TANGO D'AMOUR

By Susan H. Day

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

TANGO D'AMOUR

Winner of the 2006 Texas Orchestra Directors Association Composition Contest, the French title means “Tango of Love.” From the opening three chords, this piece is set apart by its dramatic quality, intriguing harmonies, unforgettable minor melody, and genuine tango style. Written in D minor, all parts stay in first position. Student performers themselves chose this piece as the TODA winner from the contest finalists.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This composition comes together easily, yet sounds much more challenging than it is. Observing all the dynamics, particularly the crescendos, will give this piece a great dramatic flair. Starting at measure 20, you have the opportunity to teach your students to play two-beat triplets. It is important to play both notes on all *divisi* parts, especially in the cello part (mm. 35, 37, 52-55), to achieve the richness of the chords. Feature the violists, cellists, and bassists together at mm. 52-62. In measures using slurred sixteenth notes starting on an up bow (as in mm. 31, 32, 48, 49, 82, and 83), retake the bow after the lift sign and start the up bow near the frog.