



Feliz Navidad

JOSE FELICIANO

Arranged by VICTOR LÓPEZ

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 Drum Set

PROGRAM NOTES

"Feliz Navidad," written in 1970 by Jose Feliciano, has now become a tradition worldwide during the holiday season. Jose was born blind, to humble beginnings on September 10, 1945, in Lares, Puerto Rico. One of eleven boys, his love affair with music began at the age of three when he first accompanied his uncle on a tin cracker can. When he was five, his family immigrated to New York City. Three songs that have been milestones for Feliciano are "Light My Fire," "Che Sara," and "Feliz Navidad." However, "Feliz Navidad" has had the most success. Victor López' skillful arrangement of this composition provides a Latin rock rhythmic experience like no other.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The unison and tutti section at the beginning and ending of this arrangement is a rhythmic motive that has become a signature for endless numbers of Latin compositions. This exciting rhythmic figure sets the tone for the melody. Although the melodic material in this arrangement is fairly close to the original, there are variances throughout. Note that there is always a tendency for young musicians to play popular songs in the style that they have come to know. Hand percussion may be added. Have one player play the claves (2-3 pattern) throughout the piece but not during the beginning and ending sections. Conga drums and guiro may be added while the drumset provides the basic rock pattern. It is the combination of the Latin and rock style ingredients that makes this arrangement rhythmically special.

Enjoy and Feliz Navidad to all!

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