

STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Molecules and Stars

Martin Norgaard (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

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

Notes to the Conductor

This gentle Latin jazz piece features unusual and challenging harmonies. Though melodic, the piece does not have a common key center, giving it a sound reminiscent of Impressionistic composers such as Ravel or Debussy. Based on a Bossa Nova beat, this piece requires perfect intonation, crisp rhythms and a beautiful legato sound. Tune the harmonies separately by isolating various chords and having the orchestra play those as whole notes. Practice the rhythms by isolating various figures and teaching them by ear. The melody moves around between various voices. After the intro, the first violins have the melody in mm. 9–15, then the cellos take over in mm. 17–22, followed by a pizzicato cello/bass section in mm. 23–29. After a tutti break, the first violins have the melody again and are joined by the violas in harmony in mm. 37–40. In mm. 41–45, the second violins and cellos play the melody in octaves accompanied by a countermelody. In m. 47, the cellos continue the melody solo followed by the first violins in mm. 55–60. The solo section in mm. 61–76 should feature a soloist improvising around the B minor pentatonic scale. The accompaniment allows for the soloist to experiment with accidentals, including changing the tonality to B major. Sample solos are included for violin, viola and cello and can be used in performance. The melody is recapped in mm. 79–95, followed by another solo section. The solo section in mm. 98–105 is easiest to improvise over using the E natural minor scale.

