Classic Mallet Trios—Beethoven
(4 Classics Arranged for Orchestra Bells, Vibraphone and Marimba)

Music by Ludwig van Beethoven
Arranged by Brian Slawson

Performance Notes
The enclosed works from the classical/romantic era by German composer Ludwig van Beethoven (1770–1827) are arranged for mallet trio consisting of orchestra bells, vibraphone, and marimba (minimum range: 4½ octaves). These pieces may also be performed as a four-movement work in the order listed below.

Allegro con brio—It is hard to imagine a more recognizable theme than the opening of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5. However, the fact that each four-note phrase is preceded by a brief rest on the downbeat often provokes challenging for ensembles. Electing a member of the trio to supply a conducted downbeat will help to make for a clean start. In fact, consistent visual communication between percussionists can be a great asset, particularly when navigating slow tempos.

Adagio—In stark contrast to “Allegro con brio,” this second movement extract from the Emperor Concerto is melodic and serene. The character of its polyrhythms (2 against 3 and vice versa) should remain light and lyrical. Players should use soft mallets, and keep a keen eye (and ear) on dynamics. Varying one’s roll speeds is an excellent vehicle for expression as well. During this arrangement, the percussionist playing orchestra bells will also play the marimba.

Für Elise—Believed to have been composed for one of his students, Beethoven’s “Für Elise” remains an overwhelming favorite to aspiring keyboardists. Interestingly, the score was not published until 40 years after his death. With the exception of the contrasting middle section, “Für Elise” should be played tenderly with great affection.

Ode to Joy—One of Beethoven’s most revered offerings from his monumental Symphony No. 9, “Ode to Joy” is known throughout the world as mankind’s ultimate musical testament to brotherhood and world peace. The familiar melody should start poignantly and build throughout, always maintaining a feeling of reverence until the final section comes to an exuberant conclusion.

Instrumentation (Number of Players: 3)
1 Conductor Score
1 Orchestra Bells
1 Vibraphone
1 Marimba
Adagio
(from Piano Concerto No. 5 or Emperor Concerto)

By Ludwig van Beethoven
Arranged by Brian Slawson

Adagio $\frac{d}{4} = 58$

Orchestra Bells/ Marimba

Vibrhone

Marimba

Bells/ Mar.

Vibes

Mar.

Bells/ Mar.

Vibes

Mar.

$\text{rit. to Bells!}$

© 2014 ALFRED MUSIC PUBLISHING CO., INC.
All Rights Reserved. Printed in USA.