

SIMPLY *for* STRINGS

— EDUCATION —

Level 8 Curriculum

IM Strings - DET EQ

Key concepts for this level can be found on page 24 of the [IM curriculum](#).

Title	Composer	Publisher	Publisher level	EQ IM Level	Overview and relation to EQ curriculum
A Long Way From Home	Spiritual, arr. Gruselle	FJH	3.5	8	<p>BUY: A Long Way From Home WATCH: A Long Way From Home</p> <p>From the intensity of despair and despondency to the tranquility of peace and hope, this arrangement will challenge the musical maturity of your group. The opening violin solo leads to a range of textures and harmonic twists as the music takes the listener on a beautiful, yet intense emotional journey. Stunning.</p>
Alegria! (Joy!)	Bud Woodruff	KJOS	3	7 – 8	<p>BUY: Alegria! (Joy!)</p> <p>Here's a highly spirited <i>paso doble</i> that perfectly fits into any concert, any time of year. Set in D minor, this lively piece features contagious rhythmic elements and showcases the entire orchestra with festive melodies. Not much position work.</p>
Dies Irae from Requiem	Mozart	Belwin	3	7 – 8	<p>BUY: Dies Irae from Requiem WATCH: Dies Irae from Requiem</p> <p>Maintains the intensity of Mozart's original "Dies Irae" from <i>Requiem</i>. With its dramatic and driving music, off-beat rhythms, and running 16th notes, it presents a more intense style of Mozart. Challenging string parts with shifting for all sections keeps students engaged.</p>

Fingal's Cave	Mendelssohn, arr. Robert McCashin	FJH	3.5 – 4	8 - 9	<p>BUY: Fingal's Cave WATCH: Fingal's Cave</p> <p>Written after Mendelssohn visited Fingal's Cave off the coast of Scotland, this music showcases the composer's comment that it is "in pictures, ruins and natural surroundings that I find the most music." Throughout the overture, one feels the undulation of the sea, the swirling waters washing up onto the formation, and the mesmerizing enchantment of his experience.</p>
Lux Angelis	Stephen Chin	Everything String	4	6-8	<p>BUY: Lux Angelis LISTEN: Lux Angelis</p> <p>Light of the angels, is an advanced string orchestra work that may be played with optional grade 1, 2, keyboard and percussion. Cut common time, suspended chords and harmonics. Cut common time, change in musical styles throughout, high up for violins, technical.</p>
March Past of the Kitchen Utensils	Vaughan Williams, arr. Paul Lavender	Hal Leonard	N/A	6 - 8	<p>BUY: March Past of the Kitchen Utensils WATCH: March Past of the Kitchen Utensils</p> <p>Composed early in Williams' career, the piece reflects his skill with folk-style melodies and orchestration refined by his studies with Ravel. This adaptation is an effective theatrical concert work for mature string orchestras.</p> <p>Developing concepts of level 5 whilst introducing level 6. Has elements of levels 7 and 8 with 12/8 time, hook stroke, ornamentation, not much position work for parts except cellos which have chromatic shifting from ½ - 4th position. Violin solo.</p>
Meer Winden	Bob Phillips	Highland Etling	3	8 – 9	<p>BUY: Meer Winden WATCH: Meer Winden</p> <p>The strong Dutch heritage of West Michigan bestows the name Meer Winden, "lake winds" in Dutch, and provides a story to the technical and musical elements. All sections play the melody and the driving accompaniments. Violins and violas use third position; violas and cellos use fourth position. Good for working on tone production.</p>

Old French Melody	Tchaikovsky	Highland Etling	3	8	<p>BUY: Old French Melody WATCH: Old French Melody</p> <p>Arr: Robert Sieving. Based upon Tchaikovsky's setting features half position for string bass, first positions in all other sections, and interesting parts for middle voices. A teaching opportunity to explore parallel minor and major is also present.</p>
Sinfonia in D minor	Cannabich, arr. McCashin	FJH	3.5	8	<p>BUY: Sinfonia in D minor WATCH: Sinfonia in D minor</p> <p>This arrangement is incredibly fun to play, exciting to hear, and full of teachable moments. Piece needs to be tight for style (to match Level 8 ensemble performance notes). Sonata form. Quite enjoyable for an introduction to a moto classical work.</p> <p>Light spiccato (artistic performance to match the genre). Double stops, third position for violins. A lot of interplay between parts - a good piece to develop awareness of the other parts of the ensemble. Chamber music concepts and approach.</p>
Struggle in the Shadows	Brian Balmages	FJH	3	8	<p>BUY: Struggle in the Shadows WATCH: Struggle in the Shadows</p> <p>Piano needed. This powerful work tackles the issue of bullying in schools from the perspective of a student. Making use of a quartet within the ensemble (either a standard quartet or an option of using a second cellist instead of viola), the piece moves between the voices of the lonely and their experiences. From moments of solitude to anguish and hope, this piece seeks to bring light to an issue that continues to plague schools worldwide.</p>
Symphony no. 5 in C minor op. 67, mvt. 2	Beethoven Arr Michael Hopkins	Belwin	4	8 – 10	<p>BUY: Symphony no. 5 in C minor op. 67, mvt. 2 WATCH: Symphony no. 5 in C minor op. 67, mvt. 2</p> <p>The heroic second movement of Beethoven's <i>Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67</i> is a theme and variations. The original key of A-flat major has been changed to C major, and the original time signature of 3/8 has been changed to 3/4 meter. Beethoven's original dynamic markings and harmonies have been preserved. Teaches legato, hooked, martelé, and spiccato bowings; bow distribution; dynamic contrast; and phrasing.</p>

Trailblaze	Rick Hirsch	FJH	3.5	8	<p>BUY: Trailblaze WATCH: Trailblaze</p> <p>Your students will be excited to dig in and experience the fun groove of the piece! Written with a slight jazz flavor, the music is a welcome departure from standard string repertoire and is a phenomenal change of pace for your next program.</p> <p>Changing between 1st - 4th positions for cellos, and 1st - 3rd for violins. Action-based work. Cello and bass ½ - 3rd positions - great workout for the lower end. “Chunky” part for the bass in particular with covering all five positions.</p> <p>Great fun and requires a lot of thinking! Appealing for the audience.</p>
Witch’s Fiddle	Robert Buckley	Hal Leonard	N/A	8	<p>BUY: Witch’s Fiddle WATCH: Witch’s Fiddle</p> <p>Introduce your students to some spooky string playing effects and stretch their aural imaginations with Robert Buckley’s modern harmonic landscape. Level 8 with elements of level 10 (sul pont. and Bartok pizz).</p> <p>Sul ponticello, violin solo, Bartok pizz., tremolo, glissando harmonics, B minor. Awareness of other parts required - good practice for this. Captivating and hauntingly intense. Fabulous for something a little out of the box!</p>

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