Christmas in the Caribbean

Featuring O Tannenbaum

Traditional

Arranged by Victor López (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
- 8 1st Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass

- 1 Piano Accompaniment
- 3 Percussion

(Maracas/Sleigh Bells, Claves/ Tambourine, Bass Drum, or optional Drumset)

Written in a bossa nova style, this fresh take on a classic will add a little Caribbean flavor to your Christmas concert and will be easy to learn and teach.

PROGRAM NOTES

Christmas in the Caribbean is an arrangement based on "O'Tannenbaum," a traditional German Christmas Carol. Christmas around the world is celebrated on Christmas Day, the 25th of December. Some countries, however, have different Christmas traditions, and the celebrations take place over a long period of time. Though the mode of celebration, the dates, and the traditions vary, Caribbean residents regard Christmas as a joyful time of faith and put their own unique spin on the festive season. Many of the celebrations include carnivals, boat parades, fireworks, local folklore, and traditions through song, dance, drama, poetry, street parties, performances, and musical competitions. People of all religions, and some who observe no religion at all, become involved in the Christmas activities.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This work is written in a bossa nova style throughout, except for mm. 29–36, which are written in a medium jazz waltz style. A quick explanation of these two styles may be necessary. Students could research the two styles and share the findings. Note that the first three measures of the introduction are repeated at mm. 43–45. Measure 5–12 serve as a second introduction to set up the bossa nova groove. Consider rehearsing the rhythm section separately and then adding the strings. Work on making all transitions smooth, including mm. 11–13,19–21, 27–29, 36–37, and 43–47. The waltz style at m. 29 should have a "one feel." Keep the optional bass drum light throughout this section. The percussion part includes maracas and claves. In the absence of the maracas, a shaker, cabasa, or hi-hat may be used. A woodblock may be used in place of the claves. As an option, one player may play the entire part on drumset. The piano part has been written to be somewhat percussive to enhance the rhythmic nature of this piece.

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.

Sof Rhillips
Belwin/Pop String Editor



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