

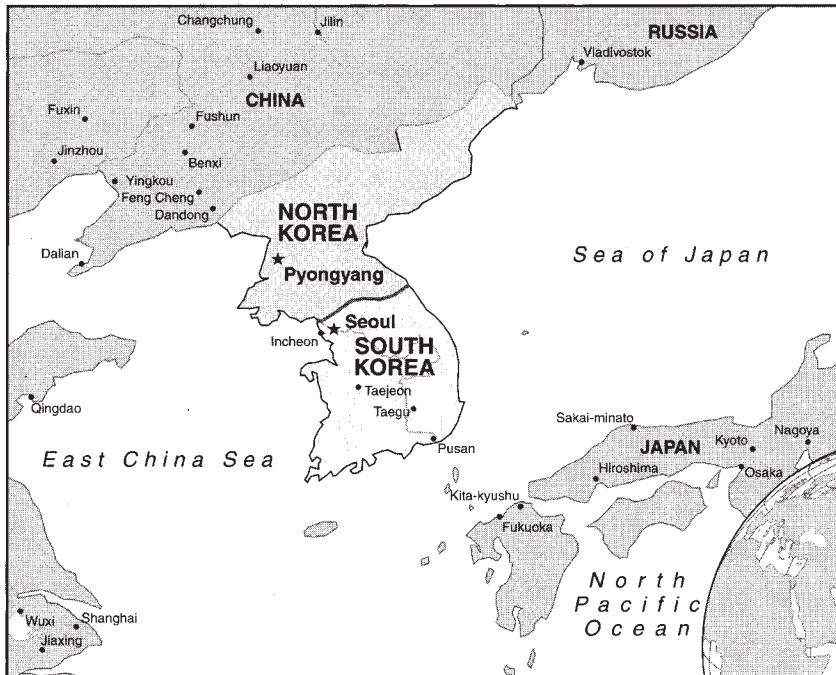
Kjos String Orchestra  
Grade 2  
Full Conductor Score  
SO167F  
\$5.00

Elliot Del Borgo, Arranger

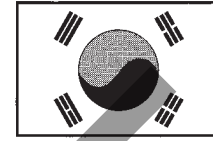
# *Korean Folk Song Variants*

## *Arirang*

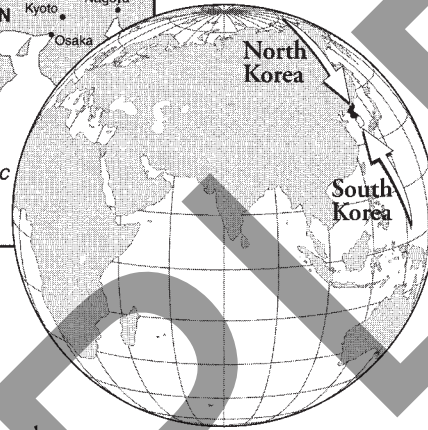




North Korea



South Korea



## Brief Notes about Korea

Located in East Asia, the 600-mile long Korea peninsula juts out from Northern China toward Japan. It is divided into two political units: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Korea also has more than 3,000 islands. Cheju, just off the tip of South Korea, is the largest island and belongs to South Korea.

North Korea enforces a communist government. The government owns all factories and farms. Farms are collectives, meaning that work and profits are shared. Many North Koreans live in poverty. South Korea is a multiparty republic and holds democratic elections. It is one of the fastest growing economies. Their factories produce computers, electrical goods, and much more. Most of the industries in South Korea are privately owned. North and South Korea have lived with much distrust between each other since World War II. The two nations were at war between 1950 and 1953. Many lives were lost and much land and many properties were destroyed.

Korea's performing arts were greatly influenced by those in China including the teachings of Buddhism and Confucianism whose dance, music, and instruments were adopted. Instruments common to Korea, which originated in the Chinese court, were divided into eight categories of bamboo, clay, gourd, leather, metal, silk, stone, and wood. Its basis is the Confucian idea that the world will be at peace when these substances are in harmony.

The history of music in Korea is quite detailed and complex. In brief, Korean music is quite different from Western music. It uses several versions of a five-note scale and very complex rhythms. While types of Korean music through the centuries can be classified into many sections and sub-sections, the two most general categories are court music (aak) and folk music. Court music was formal and reserved for royal and aristocratic events. Folk music was often sung or played by traveling musicians who were considered socially low in rank.

Christian missionaries from Europe introduced Korea to Western classical music sometime during the nineteenth century. Beginning in the twentieth century, wealthier families encouraged the learning of violin and piano. Today, symphony orchestras exist in the larger metropolitan areas of South Korea and some of the world's leading classical musicians are from South Korea.

To learn more about the history of Korea and Korean music, visit your local library or check out a variety of websites on the Internet.

## Fun Facts

- Kimchi, a spicy dish of pickled cabbage, vegetables, or fruit is one of the most popular and common menu items served at breakfast, lunch, and dinner.
- Flying kites is a favorite pastime for Korean children and young people.
- Approximately 20% of the Korea peninsula is suitable for raising crops. Rice is the chief crop, but barley, wheat, and soybeans are also cultivated.
- Hopscotch is a favorite playground game of Korean girls. It is played the same way as hopscotch in America.
- Korean is the official language of North and South Korea. It is similar to Japanese but contains many borrowed Chinese words. The Korean alphabet contains ten vowels and fourteen consonants. It is written in its own unique script called Hangul.
- Koreans excel in the martial arts. *Tae kwon do* is a self-defense martial art that began over 2,000 years ago as a protective skill during the wars.
- According to traditional custom from many years ago, when a Korean baby was born, a small straw rope was hung across the gatepost to announce the arrival. Pieces of red peppers and charcoal were attached to the rope if it was a boy. If it was a girl, pieces of green pine branches and charcoal were attached to the rope.
- A traditional setting for meals includes a low table, with each person sitting on a cushion on the floor. Chopsticks are used for eating.
- One of the most important percussion instruments used in all types of Korean music is the *changgo*, a large hourglass-shaped drum with a wooden body. Its left side is covered with cowhide and is played with the palm of the left hand. The right side is covered with horsehide and is struck with a slender bamboo stick.

## The Composition

**Arirang** is possibly the most famous Korean folk song. While it is not officially documented, **Arirang** is likely to be at least 2,000 years old. As with most folk songs, which are handed down from generation to generation, there are many different versions with subjects varying from tender love messages to sentiments of national pride and patriotism.

Korea has endured a long history of war and foreign occupation. Therefore, the Korean people have endowed many of their songs with qualities of strength and determination to rise above life's problems. **Arirang** is said to be a song about this very subject. Arirang is a hill near the city of Seoul and it was this hill that thousands of Korean patriots had to climb as they were led by a tyrannical emperor to be killed. This is said to have been what the patriots sang as they crossed over the hill of Arirang. The song has come to symbolize that one must overcome life's uncertainty and meet squarely the challenge to happiness.

This arrangement of **Arirang** can not be considered authentic due to instrumentation and harmonization, among other reasons. It has been "westernized" so that string players and listeners today can experience and enjoy the music from this rich culture. **Korean Folk Song Variants** takes the **Arirang** melody through a series of beautiful, reflective, and triumphal variations. The melody, which is shared by all players in the orchestra, is based on the pentatonic (five-note) scale. The example below highlights the pentatonic scale within the opening notes of **Arirang**.



# Korean Folk Song Variants

## Arirang

Arranged by Elliot Del Borgo

Full Conductor Score  
Approx. time – 3:45

**Andante** ♩ = 80

Violins 1  
Violins 2  
Viola\*  
Cello  
String Bass

**Andante** ♩ = 80

Piano (optional)  
l.h.  
p

Vlins. 1  
Vlins. 2  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

Pno.

*mf cantabile*

\*3rd Violin (Viola T. C.) is also included in this set.

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13 14 15 16 17 18

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

19 20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

*mf*

1.  
24

2. **accel.** **Più mosso** ♩ = 112 30

1 Vlns. *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f cantabile*

Str. Bass *f cantabile*

Pno. **Più mosso** ♩ = 112 30 *f*

31 Vlns. 1 *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Pno. *f*



37 38 39 40 41 42

Vlns. 1 *ff bravura*

Vlns. 2 *ff bravura*

Vla. *ff bravura*

Cello *ff bravura*

Str. Bass *ff*

Pno. *ff bravura*

43 44 45 46 47 48

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*ff*

Pno.

55 56 57 58 59 60

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf marcato*

*sfp*

Pno.

*sfp*

*mf marcato*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 49 to 60. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with five staves: Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, Str. Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 49-54 show a dynamic of *ff* (fortissimo). Measures 55-60 show a dynamic of *mf marcato* (mezzo-forte marcato). A double bar line is present at the end of measure 54. A large, semi-transparent watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.



61 62 63 64 65 66

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

*mf marcato*

*mf marcato*

*mf marcato*

*mf marcato*

*mf marcato*

67 68 69 70 71 72

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

*f*

*f*

73 74 75 76 77 78

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. 74

79 80 81 82 83 84

Vlns. 1 *ff* *sonore*

Vlns. 2 *ff* *sonore*

Vla. *ff* *sonore*

Cello *ff* *sonore*

Str. Bass *ff* *sonore*

Pno. 80 *ff* *sonore*

85 86 87 88 89 90

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

*con forza*

91 92 93 94 95

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

96 97 98 99 100

Vlins. 1 *mp*

Vlins. 2 *p sub.*

Vla. *p sub.*

Cello *sfp*

Str. Bass *sfp*

Pno. *p sub.* *sfp*

101 102 103 104 105

Vlins. 1 *ff*

Vlins. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff sonore*

Str. Bass *ff sonore*

Pno. *ff* *sonore*

106 107 108 109 110

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

111 112 113 114 115

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.



SAMPLE





## The Arranger

Born in Port Chester, New York, **Elliot Del Borgo** holds a B.S. degree from State University of New York, an Ed.M degree from Temple University, and a M.M. degree from the Philadelphia Conservatory where he studied theory and composition with Vincent Persichetti and trumpet with Gilbert Johnson. In 1973 he was granted the doctoral equivalency by the State University of New York, and was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association in 1993.

Mr. Del Borgo has taught instrumental music in the Philadelphia Public Schools and is currently Professor of Music Emeritus at the State University of New York. An award-winning member of ASCAP, he is a frequent consultant, clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator, and is a widely known conductor of bands and orchestras.

In addition to writing for the 1980 Olympics, Mr. Del Borgo has published numerous compositions for a variety of media.

Other string orchestra works by Elliot Del Borgo, published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company include **Brevard Sketches; Christmastide; March Heroic; Peasant Dances; Sleep, Holy Babe; and Sonatine**. Works for full orchestra include **Essay for Orchestra**.

## Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 1 – Optional Piano
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.