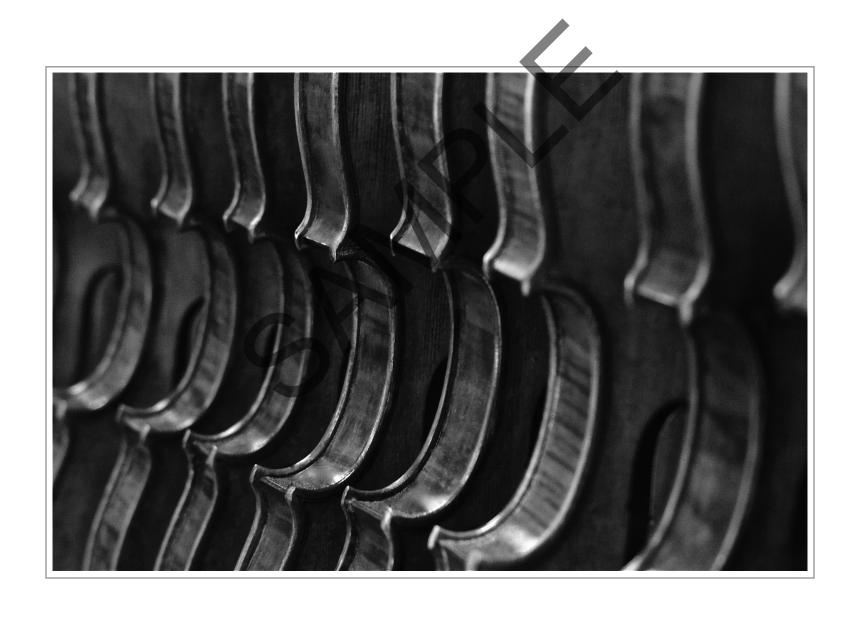
Bud Woodruff

Back at Home



About the Composer



Bud Woodruff is an accomplished educator, conductor, composer and arranger. He recently retired from the Deer Park Independent School District (Deerpark, Texas) after a 16-year tenure teaching orchestra (grades 6-12) and serving as head of the orchestra program for 14 years.

Mr. Woodruff graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's and master's degree in music. While there, he studied composition with Michael Horvit, conducting with A. Clyde Roller, and James T. Matthews. After graduating, he performed with the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra for 22 years, and for 16 years, served as the music director and orchestra conductor of the Pasadena, Texas Philharmonic Society. In addition to his many achievements in Deer Park, he has also conducted All-Region Orchestras in Texas and Arkansas.

The Composition

I intended to write a poem about what this piece means to me, set to the rhythms of the piece. But, upon reflection, I realized it can mean different things to different people, and I didn't want to impose my ideas and thwart their imaginatios, all of which are wonderfully valid. But I must say something.

Te me, the piece reflects the peace and relief I enjoy when I return home from being away. To my wife, it sounds like determined pioneers, traveling into the vast unknown, but remembering 'home.'

I especially believe that it expresses the emotions of a deployed soldier, remembering life 'back at home,' their family 'back at home,' their longing to be 'back at home,' and how their families want them safely 'back at home.' And it is dedicated to a former student now stationed overseas, Humberto Garza, whose family wants him safe so he too can be 'back at home.'

After working on the piece to the point that it starts to shape up, have each of your students write a paragraph on what the music means to them. How does the music connects them to a particular experience or to special feelings or emotions. If you wish, send me copies of their ideas. I would love to read their reflections.

-Bud Woodruff

Rehearsal Suggestions

This piece should be played in a legato style throughout. The ensemble should sound in complete control in every section of the work. Be careful to not exceed the indicated dynamics early and then have to overplay later to fulfill them.

The basses need to be careful with their bow path and bow speeds starting in measure 33. By doing so, especially during the moving eighth notes, their performance will sound rich, clear, and clean. Although it is not required to perform the section, the director may choose to keep the 1st violins on the A string in measure 50-66. It could facilitate several things.

The last low D is for those bass players that may be so fortunate to have an extension on their bass.

The harp is not essential to the performance of the piece.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

8 - Ist Violin
8 - 2nd Violin
5 - String Bass
5 - 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
1 - Harp (Optional)
5 - Viola
I - Full Conductor

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this work, or any other Kjos publication, please visit www.kjos.com.

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Full Conductor Score **Bud Woodruff** Approx. performance time—2:30 Peacefully (= 48-60) Violin Viola Cello String Bass Peacefully (= 48-60) Harp (Optional) Vln. Vla. Cello Str. Bass 9













