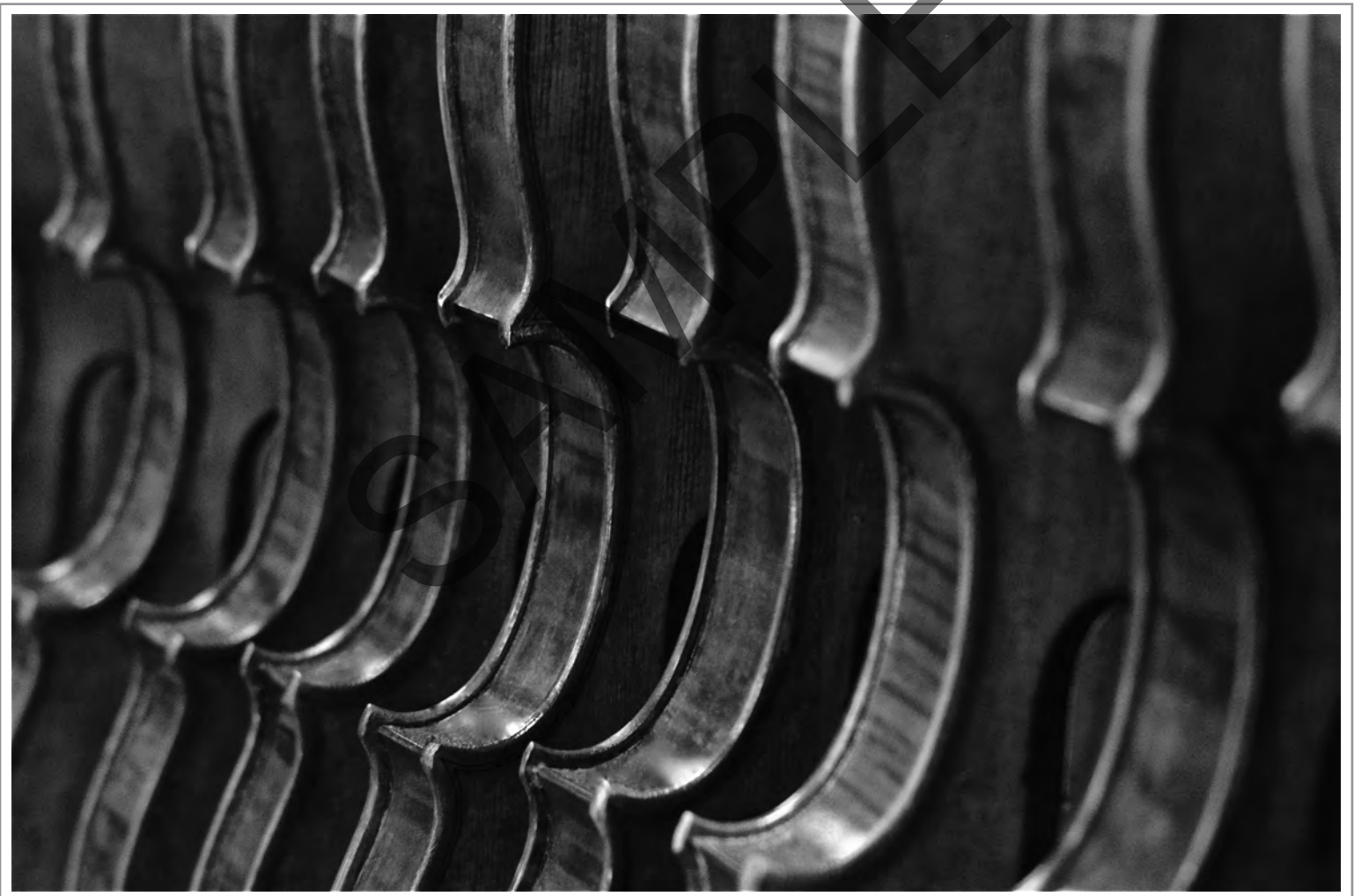


Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 2½
Full Conductor Score
SO356F
\$7.00

Bud Woodruff, Arranger

“America” Variations



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



About the Arranger



Bud Woodruff is an accomplished educator, conductor, composer and arranger. He recently retired from the Deer Park Independent School District (Deer Park, 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.

About the Composition

The American patriotic song, "America," has the same melody as England's "God Save the Queen," and its melody has been used by many countries around the world as their national anthem. There is great dispute over the origin of the melody, there being numerous examples of melodies that are almost the same, but with slight variations, going back to the Renaissance Period. Many famous composers have used the melody in their works, including Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms, and Paganini.

The melody, with different words, has been used in church hymnals in many countries, including Germany, the United States, Mexico, and Central America. The first documented version of this melody printed in the American British colonies dates from 1761.

Rehearsal Suggestions

This arrangement is presented in a straight forward manner to facilitate rehearsing. All sections receive either the melody or the principal part of the variation at one point or another. The Theme should be played in a broad, connected style, but with clarity and dignity. Maintain the forte in measure 7 through measure 14, so the next variation will not have to be too soft in order to give the dynamic affect.

The violas at Variation 1 need to be bold with the melody and use fourth finger on 'A's whenever appropriate. The violins take over the accompaniment line of the variation at measure 21, and must be careful to stay beneath the sound level of the violas. The goal for the 1st and 2nd violins is to perform their parts as seamlessly as possible.

The 2nd violins in Variation 2 also need to be bold and use fourth finger, like the violas in the previous variation. The variation played by the firsts should be light and airy, and they should endeavor to make it sound easy. They should be sensitive to the sound of the 2nds, which should predominate. The violas, dynamically, should be just beneath the seconds.

Variation 3 should go no faster than the cellos and basses can play accurately. High strings must not rush, and their use of full bow strokes will provide a rich tone quality and will help sustain the desired tempo. Cellos and basses should practice these runs very slowly until they have the bowing technique and fingerings down. One option is place the bow at the balance point, using primarily wrist and forearm. This bow placement will also help students play even sixteenths. Warming up the orchestra with a G Major scale at the tempo of this variation will help all students solidify good intonation, even sixteenth notes, proper bow usage, and appropriate overall posture.

Measure 54 can be performed by broadening each beat until the caesura. Allow for a complete break (with all eyes on the conductor!), and conclude with the Adagio (ms. 55-56) in the same style as the opening Theme.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

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

Additional scores and parts are available.

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

Credit: The jacket and score photograph was taken at Robertson & Sons Violin Shop, Inc., Albuquerque, NM. For more information about their services, visit: www.robertsonviolins.com.

“America” Variations

Full Conductor Score
Approx. performance time—2:00

German Hymn
Arranged by Bud Woodruff

Moderato (♩ = 84)

Violins 1
Violins 2
Viola
Cello
String Bass

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

11 12 13 14

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Variation 1

15 16 17 18 19

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mp

mp

20 21 22 23 24

Vlins. 1

Vlins. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

25 26 27 28

Vlins. 1

Vlins. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Variation 2

29

1 Vlns. *mp*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello

Str. Bass

34

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

35 V

36

37

38

39 40 41 42

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Variation 3

43 **Maestoso**

44 45 46

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

47 48 49 50 51

1 Vlns. *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello

Str. Bass

52 53 54 55 56

1 Vlns. *ff*

2 Vlns. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff*

Adagio

