

Composer's Notes

Picture Pennsylvania's natural beauty as it was seen by the pioneers: a misty morning, vast expanses of tree-filled wilderness, the seemingly endless Allegheny River stretching far into the distance. A river meant water for livestock and agriculture, and the possibility of navigating the waterway for commerce. The energetic main theme depicts these sturdy settlers' aspirations and explorations. But the solemnity gives way to the merry fiddle tune of a barn dance. A wistful waltz in a minor mode contrasts their hardship and loneliness. The main theme returns a new key, signifying determination and confidence. The piece ends as it began, with a query expressed by the violins, pondering what the future may hold.

Performance Notes

For level 2+ (advancing beginner) string orchestra in five-part harmony, typically Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Optional parts: Violin III doubling violas, Cello II doubling bass, Rehearsal Piano. The parts are mostly in first position with a few exceptions in the low strings.

About the Composer

Marcia Stockton (ASCAP) has been writing serious music since 1995. In 2013 she started offering her compositions to the public and began composing new works, quickly securing publication contracts and premiere performances. Marcia is one of the professional musicians who volunteers with the Carson Valley Sinfonia, a unique community orchestra in rural Nevada that gives string students the opportunity to gain experience playing in an ensemble. The Sinfonia has premiered many new pieces and ignited many careers in music. Marcia also teaches cello. Marcia majored in music theory at Swarthmore College (1975) and studied with eminent cellists of the Philadelphia Orchestra. For nearly two decades she was a senior technical staff member and Master Inventor at IBM. She and her husband Greg then lived a pioneering life on a backcountry cattle ranch in the southern Sierra Nevada, tending a unique wilderness site. With two cats and two horses, they now live in northern Nevada's Carson Valley. For more information visit her website: Joyful Music Creations, marciastockton.com.

Cover: Early Morning Western Virginia by William Louis Sonntag (1822-1900).

Allegheny Legend

Marcia Stockton (ASCAP)











