

Marsha Chusmir Shapiro

**WHICH  
WAY  
AMERICA?**

For String Orchestra



OMS154

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## **Composer's Notes**

This composition poses an unanswered question: "Which way America?" It suggests that we are at a turning point as a country, where we have choices to make about our direction. Is it a question about politics, world leadership, economics, social or moral values? If the director is so inclined, this might provide an opportunity for students to think and write about where they wish to see the country headed.

The four measure motif is plaintive and somber, yet not unhopeful. As with most of Mrs. Shapiro's compositions for young musicians, all instrumentalists have the opportunity to play the melody. Rich countermelodies, incorporating ascending and descending scale fragments prevail. The pairing of voices in different combinations (1st vln/vla, upper strings, 2nd vln/vla, vla/ cello, and cello/bass) provides variety in timber. The cello has a prominent role with notes in third and fourth position on the A string, and arpeggiated accompaniment. First violinists may prefer to play the melody in third position for a richer tone.

## **About the Composer**

Marsha Chusmir Shapiro earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in music education from the Florida State University. Mrs. Shapiro was the winner of the 1985 National School Orchestra Association Composition Competition and was named 1994 Florida "Global Educator" by SIRS and the Florida Council for the Social Studies. She is the author of numerous orchestral, band and elementary school musical compositions. Marsha Chusmir Shapiro has been teaching in Florida since 1972.

# WHICH WAY AMERICA?

Score

Marsha Chusmir Shapiro

♩ = 90

**rall.**      **a tempo**

Violin 1 *mp* *mp*

Violin 2 *mp* *mp*

Viola *mp* *mp*

Cello *mf* *mp*

Bass *mf* *mp*

Detailed description: This block contains the first eight measures of the score. The music is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The tempo starts at 90 bpm and is marked 'rall.' for measures 3 and 4, then returns to 'a tempo'. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano (mp) to mezzo-forte (mf). Fingerings and bowings are indicated throughout. A 'V' marking appears above the Violin 1 staff in measure 7.

9

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains measures 9 through 14 of the score. The instrumentation remains the same. The music continues with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, primarily mezzo-forte (mf). Fingerings and bowings are clearly marked. A '3H' marking is present above the Viola staff in measure 10, and 'III 4' is marked above the Cello staff in measure 13.

16

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

22

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*mf*