

To a Wild Rose

for String Orchestra



OMS156

# Composer's Notes

To a Wild Rose is the most popular piece in American composer Edward MacDowell's (1860-1908) well-known piano suite Woodland Sketches, Op. 51 (1896). Its simple, unassuming character portrays a pretty wild rose that one might encounter in the woods. Less elegant than their suburban garden cousins, the loveliness of wild rose blossoms is short-lived, fragrant and undisciplined. With this in mind, Stockton rejuvenated MacDowell's piano piece with a fresh orchestration featuring a lush string sound within younger musicians' capabilities.

### **Performance Notes**

For level 2+ string orchestra. The Violin IA part is a grade 3 (5th position), but a grade 2 (1st position) ossia is provided. *To a Wild Rose* is a vehicle for the director to encourage the use of expressive phrasing, ensemble listening/playing, wide dynamic range, and warm vibrato.

### **Instrumentation**

Violin I (*divisi*) up to 5th position; an optional ossia (the top voice down 1 octave) remains in 1st position Violin II
Viola
Violoncello (*divisi*)
Contrabass (or bass cues in cello part)

# **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.

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Duration 2:30 by Edward MacDowell arr. by Marcia Stockton (ASCAP)



