

"Home Means Nevada" Instructions to Conductors

"Home Means Nevada" was composed by Bertha Raffetto in 1932 and was designated the official song of the State of Nevada the following year. Mrs. Raffetto wrote in 1949, "I wanted to express in a simple, natural style, those enduring and homely qualities I had found in Nevada--the same qualities one finds in a good home--beauty, joy and security." In honor of Nevada's sesquicentennial (150th anniversary of the state's admission to the Union on Oct. 31, 1864), I was commissioned by the Reno Philharmonic Association to write a series of arrangements of "Home Means Nevada." The project was funded by a grant from the E. L. Wiegand Foundation. The arrangements are in five basic versions:

- **Level 1** for unison chorus and strings in unison and octaves (or unison singers with piano reduction/accompaniment) is intended for "Level 1" beginning elementary-level players. This is largely identical to Level 2, except that the *all* the strings play a simplified version of the melody.
- **Level 2** for unison chorus and string orchestra (or unison singers with piano reduction/accompaniment) is intended for "Level 2" (advanced elementary-level or middle school-level) players.
- **Level 3** for SA (soprano, alto) chorus and string orchestra (or SA chorus with piano reduction) is intended for "Level 3" (high school or advanced middle school-level) performers.
- **Level 4** for SAB (soprano, alto, baritone) chorus and string orchestra (or SAB chorus with piano reduction) is intended for advanced high school-level or community orchestra performers.
- **Level 5** ("Professional extended version") for SATB chorus and full orchestra (or SATB chorus with piano reduction) is intended for adult-level performers.

It is possible to perform two or more versions in a massed ensemble, such as a citywide school music festival. For example, a city's professional or amateur orchestra could be joined by several school string orchestras and their choruses. Harmonically, all the versions work together. The string parts in Level 1 & 2, however, are simplified to allow inexperienced players the opportunity to perform the music using nothing shorter than quarter notes in first position, which creates some blurring of the melody and harmony when used in conjunction with the other versions.

Long and short versions: The Level 5 arrangement is longer than levels 1-4 by 51 measures including an introduction and interlude. Extended versions of level 1-4 arrangements are available to allow for performance by multiple ensembles. Contact the Reno Philharmonic Librarian for parts and instructions.

Piano parts: All versions include a "piano vocal" part (chorus and piano). The piano in the "piano vocal" part can be used for rehearsal of the chorus, or in a choral performance in lieu of an orchestra. When performing Level 5 with orchestra, the piano part should be omitted as it dulls the colors of the orchestration. Levels 1, 2, 3, and 4 have a piano part, which can serve as a rehearsal/performance part for the chorus and/or for the elementary string players. It is recommended that the piano part in Levels 1 and 2 be played by an adult to assist the young string players and to fill in missing elements, due to the simplification of the string parts.

Orchestra alone: In general, each Level can be played by orchestra alone (no chorus). The piano part for Level 1 & 2, if played with the string orchestra, will help define the melody and harmony parts that have been omitted due to part simplification.

Credit: Printed programs should including the following: This arrangement of "Home Means Nevada" was commissioned from David C. Bugli by the Reno Philharmonic and was made possible by a significant grant from the E. L. Wiegand Foundation.

- David C. Bugli, Sept. 2013, revised Dec. 2013