Grade 2

Music for String Orchestra

Touch the Stars

Steve Parsons

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INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Violin III (Viola T.C.) 2
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5
Piano (Opt.) 1

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Performance Notes

Touch the Stars is a reflective, sweeping piece about the fantastic imagination of children. Tender and emotional melodic lines are framed by a shimmering accompaniment, depicting a child gazing at the night sky and wishing to touch the stars. Easy rhythms and effective dynamic contrasts make this a great way to teach younger groups to play with musical sensitivity. A perfect programming fit for any time of year, this moving work will inspire students and audiences alike.

About the Composer

Steve is an award-winning composer, orchestrator and music director. Among his many composing credits are: *Evensong* (for Choir and Orchestra,) *Distant Thunder*, *Seascapes*, *Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera* (Translations Art Gallery), *Visions* (an oratorio), *College Slam* (video game, Akklaim), and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble and choral ensembles. An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships and state contest lists, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals, and numerous featured works on both J.W. Pepper's "Editor's Choice" list, and Bandworld's Top 100. Steve's musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is published by Broadway Licensing Global in New York and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (15 seasons), New York (Off-Off Broadway), Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City.)

As an orchestrator, Steve has arranged the Grateful Dead musical *Cumberland Blues* (NYMF, NY), *Life Could Be A Dream* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA), *It's A Wonderful Life* (Regional,) and *Footloose* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library.) His other credits include: *Nunsense* and *Nunsense A-Men!* (music preparation, NY), *The Tick* (member of the "Tickestra," FOX), and *Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz* (consultant and contributor, Applause Books). Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University, and is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild of America.

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for Ellie and Ethan

Touch the Stars

STEVE PARSONS



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