



**Belwin**

**ORCHESTRA INTERMEDIATE LEVEL**

**FULL OR  
STRING**

# **BELLINGRATH GARDENS**

**RALPH FORD**

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

1	Conductor	1	Tuba	8	1st Violin
2	C Flute	1	Mallet Percussion (Vibraphone/Bells)	8	2nd Violin
2	Oboe			8	3rd Violin (Viola Treble Clef)
1	1st B $\flat$ Clarinet	1	Timpani	5	Viola
1	2nd B $\flat$ Clarinet	2	Percussion I (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)	5	Cello
2	Bassoon	2	Percussion II (Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle)	5	String Bass
4	Horn in F	2	Percussion III (Cabasa, Wind Chimes)		
1	1st B $\flat$ Trumpet				
1	2nd B $\flat$ Trumpet				
3	Trombone				

## **PROGRAM NOTES**

“Bellingrath Gardens,” named after a sprawling estate in Alabama, is a lively and spirited original piece for full or string orchestra. Instrumentation is flexible to meet the needs of your ensemble.

Located approximately 14 miles southwest of the center of Mobile, Alabama, the 60-acre gardens and accompanying grand homes were originally purchased by Walter Bellingrath in 1917 at the advice of his doctor: Known as Bellcamp for the first 15 years, this fish camp was gradually turned into a grand estate by Mr. Bellingrath and his wife. The gardens officially opened in 1932 to a far greater response than imagined, with cars lined bumper-to-bumper from Mobile. Architect George B. Rogers, who had already received acclaim for his homes and buildings throughout Mobile, designed the Bellingrath home.

## **NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR**

A carefully articulated and majestic fanfare opens the piece, followed by a contrasting lyrical melody on top of a violin/flute ostinato. Note that optional solos for trumpet and trombone are to be played lyrically throughout this section each time the ostinato appears in the piece. Although the tempo moves along steadily throughout, be sure to interpret clearly the contrasting lyrical and stately sections. I hope that you, your students, and your audiences enjoy “Bellingrath Gardens,” a bright and cheerful addition to any performance.

*Ralph Ford*

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