

## Program Notes

Found both in Greek mythology and bright constellations in the night sky, Orion has an embattled history. Portrayed as a mighty hunter brandishing either a club or bow and arrow, Orion boasted that he could subdue any wild animal found on Earth. This bold confidence is depicted in this original work for developing string orchestra. Set in easy first position and 3/4 time, the fierce E-minor melody is emphasized by frequent bow lifts that mimic the drawing of the archer's bow. Every section of the orchestra gets to play the theme; the style changes from emphatic marcato to legato partway through, allowing students to explore different bow styles on and off the string. Young players also get to perfect string crossing technique with an even tone as well as dramatic dynamic contrasts

## About the Composer

Matthew Gelfer is a multi-instrumentalist performer, educator, composed and arranger with one foot planted firmly in the classical tradition and the other in fiddling and alternative styles. He obtained a degree in film scoring from Berklee College of Music and continued his pedagogical study at CUNY Brooklyn College. He holds a master's degree from Stony Brook University, where his focus was improvisation in the instrumental music classroom. Mr. Gelfer has been a guest conductor, guest artist, and sought-after clinician teaching integration of folk fiddle styles and improvisation. Mr. Gelfer teaches junior high school orchestratin the Huntington School District on Long Island, New York. He can also be seen playing fiddle, guitar and mandolin with his Americana band, The New Students. They have beleased three albums of original music.

## **Orion the Hunter**

Matthew Gelfer



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Orion the Hunter - Score





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