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La Cinquantaine for String Quartet or String Ensemble with optional Viola III & Viola

Title: La Cinquantaine (The Golden Wedding)

Origin: Gabriel-Marie, France, 1884

Key: A major, A minor

Metre: 2/2

Rhythms: 

Skill Level: Violin I: Level 5+
Violin II/III, Viola & Cello: Level 3

Duration: 3:30

About the Music: A light salon-piece composed by Gabriel-Marie in 1884 for Monsieur Binon, principal cellist of the Paris Opera. Very popular for weddings, receptions, anniversaries. Also known as The Golden Wedding.

Performance Suggestions

- ◇ Violin III & Viola are interchangeable.
- ◇ Accompaniment parts at mm.1 - 20 should be lightly accented with good tone.
- ◇ Try using pizzicato for the accompaniment mm. 1 - 20.
- ◇ Violin I should use IV position at D, if possible.
- ◇ At E, be dramatic about the *piano subito* and the following crescendo.
- ◇ At G, try a tempo of about 76 for the half-note.
- ◇ At m. 88, give the high scale to those players who can play it in tune.

Pedagogy

- ◇ Violin I *must* play the theme in III position.
- ◇ Violins II, II, Viola & Cello should match bow-strokes mm. 1 -20.
- ◇ Violin I's grace-notes are ON the beat.
- ◇ Work with Violin I on resetting the 4th finger following the harmonic at m.9.
- ◇ The 3-octave scale must be very secure!!