

STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Fowl Fiddles

(Featuring *Turkey in the Straw*, *Cluck Old Hen* and *Red Wing*)

Traditional American

Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Conductor Score | 1 |
| Violin I..... | 8 |
| Violin II..... | 8 |
| Viola..... | 5 |
| Cello..... | 5 |
| String Bass | 5 |
| Piano Accompaniment..... | 1 |

A sure winner—a “bird-in-hand!” Here’s a terrific medley of three beloved fiddle tunes that beginning string players will have the skills to play, but more advanced students will find delightfully challenging. The contrasting tunes—“Turkey in the Straw,” “Cluck Old Hen” and “Red Wing”—give all sections of the orchestra a chance to play the tunes and clever variations. Easy-but-effective special techniques extend students’ performance abilities and add interest and humor. Certain to delight players and audience alike—two birds with one musical stone!



Program Notes

Fowl Fiddles is an arrangement of three popular American old-time fiddle tunes, “Turkey in the Straw,” “Cluck Old Hen” and “Red Wing.” The first tune is a reel—an upbeat melody for a dance in 4/4 time with Scottish/Irish/British roots. Many scholars consider “Turkey in the Straw” to have its roots in a British ballad from the 1700s called “The Rose Tree.” It evolved into a popular song and fiddle tune, and was commonly heard in minstrel shows and other popular forms. “Cluck Old Hen” is generally assumed to have originated as a Southern banjo tune, although it also might have been a work song. It has become a favorite among fiddlers, who often re-tune their instruments and perform intricate bowing and pizzicato patterns in an effort to recreate the sounds of chickens—ideas captured in this arrangement. The last tune of the set, “Red Wing,” originated in the early 20th century as a Tin-Pan Alley song composed by Kerry Mills, who once taught violin at the University of Michigan. The first section of the tune is strikingly similar to Robert Schuman’s famous piano melody, “The Happy Farmer.” It has become a favorite with fiddlers and folk dancers throughout the world.

Notes to the Conductor

Fowl Fiddles is a medley appropriately arranged for beginning players. A lively tempo should be chosen—a quarter note equaling 152 is suggested. After a brief “shuffle pattern” introduction, the set begins with the famous reel “Turkey in the Straw,” with first violins predominating on the melody. The accompanying shuffle pattern, which appears often in this piece, sounds best when played legato and “on the string,” and when the off-beats (eighth notes) are emphasized over beats 1 and 3. Care should be taken to highlight dynamics and accents as marked. Note that the basses switch to arco in measure 19 only on the second time through this section. The violas and cello take over the melody at measure 20, the beginning of “Cluck Old Hen.” This rather quirky, modal reel is well-known for the left-hand pizzicato interjected into the melody (i.e., mm. 24 and 28). In this arrangement, this feature is accompanied by a “chicken scratch” effect where players are instructed to play the indicated rhythm with their bow between the bridge and tailpiece. The variation of “Cluck Old Hen” in measures 32–43 should emphasize rhythm, dynamic and articulation contrasts. Note that chord symbols are included during these measures to accommodate student solos (which can be accompanied by selected orchestra parts as written, or piano). The familiar tune, “Red Wing,” closes the medley with interesting melodic contour. The violins are featured in the A (mm. 44–52) and B (mm. 53–69) sections of this tune, while the violas and cello come to the fore on the less frequently played C section (mm. 70–85). Note that the first violin and bass parts only should be played on the repeat of the C section (tacit the first time through). A *dal segno* to m. 44 allows the piece to close with a return to sections A and B. A coda section, complete with some final “chicken scratches,” ends the piece.

Fowl Fiddles

(Featuring Turkey in the Straw, Cluck Old Hen and Red Wing)

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 3:40

Traditional American

Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

Lively (♩ = 152)

Violins
I *mf* *f*
II *mf* *f*

Viola
mf *f*

Cello
mf *f*

String Bass
mf *f*
pizz.

Piano Accompaniment
mf *f*

"Turkey in the Straw"

Vlins.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8 9

1. 2. 12

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

mp *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

mp *(2nd time arco)* *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

10 11 12 13 14

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

f

f

f

f

15 16 17 18 19

20 "Cluck Old Hen"

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Piano Accomp. *mf*

20 21 22 23

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Piano Accomp. *f*

24 25 26 27

* + = left hand pizz., play "X" notes between bridge and tailpiece (scratchy)

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Piano Accomp.

28 29 30 31

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Piano Accomp.

32 D C/D D C D C/D A D

32 D C/D D C D C/D A D

32 33 34 35

* + = left hand pizz., play "X" notes between bridge and tailpiece (scratchy)

Vlns. I
f D C D A D

Vlns. II
f

Vla.
f

Cello
f

Str. Bass
f arco

Piano Accomp.
f D C D A D

36 37 38 39

Vlns. I
p *mf* D C D A D

Vlns. II
p *mf*

Vla.
p *mf*

Cello
p *mf*

Str. Bass
p *mf*

Piano Accomp.
p *mf* D C D A D

40 41 42 43

44 **“Red Wing”**

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Piano Accomp. *f*

44 45 46 47

Vlns. I *p*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p*

Str. Bass *p*

Piano Accomp. *p*

48 49 50 51

2. 54

Vlns. I *p* *f*

Vlns. II *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Cello *p* *f*

Str. Bass *p* *f*

Piano Accomp. *p* *f*

52 53 54 55

4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

56 57 58 59

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Piano Accomp.

60 61 62 63 64

This block contains the musical score for measures 60 through 64. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass, along with a grand staff for Piano Accompaniment. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Piano Accomp.

To Coda ⊕

65 66 67 68 69

This block contains the musical score for measures 65 through 69. It features the same five staves as the previous block. The music continues in the same key and time signature. A red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page. The word "To Coda" with a circled cross symbol is written above the first staff of measure 65.

70 *Play second time only*

Vlns. I *p*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp*
Play second time only
pizz.

Str. Bass *mp*

Piano Accomp. *p*

70 71 72 73

Vlns. I *cresc.*

Vlns. II *cresc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Cello *cresc.*

Str. Bass *cresc.*

Piano Accomp. *cresc.*

74 75 76 77

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Piano Accomp.

p *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.*

78 79 80 81 82

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Piano Accomp.

1. *mf* 2. *mf* *D.S. al Coda*
1. *mf* 2. *mf* *D.S. al Coda*
1. *mf* 2. *mf* *D.S. al Coda*
1. *mf* 2. *mf* *D.S. al Coda*
1. *mf* 2. *mf* *D.S. al Coda*

83 84 85 86

87 $\text{\textcircled{O}}$ Coda

Vlns. I *f* *fp*

Vlns. II *f* *fp*

Vla. *f* *fp*

Cello *f* *fp*

Str. Bass *f* *fp*

Piano Accomp. *f* *fp*

87

88

89

Vlns. I *cresc.* *f*

Vlns. II *cresc.* *f*

Vla. *cresc.* *f*

Cello *cresc.* *f*

Str. Bass *cresc.* *f*

Piano Accomp. *cresc.* *f*

90

91

92

93

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