

IRISH WHISTLE

(Variations on “The Star of the County Down”)

Traditional

Arranged by Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

Such a fun, cool song transformed into a sure-fire winner for any concert setting. These lovely variations begin with a lush air in 3/4, which flows into a 6/8 jig featuring players whistling over top the varied pizzicato accompaniments. A 16th note flurry in 4/4 then speeds to the end in a burst of energy!



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Irish Whistle is a set of variations on the traditional Irish Air “The Star of the County Down.” The opening section (bars 1–35) should be played very lyrically. These lovely variations begin with a lush air in 3/4, which flows into a 6/8 jig featuring players whistling over top of varied pizzicato accompaniments. A 16th note flurry in 4/4 then speeds to the end in a burst of energy! The jig variation begins at bar 36. On beat 5 of bar 39, students should start whistling the cue-sized notes. They will be plucking the down beat notes while whistling until bar 47. One player could play the cue notes if needed for pitch reference. Whistling starts again on beat 4 of bar 55. Students will be plucking and whistling all cue sized notes. An Irish whistle can be added in either whistling section for effect. The reel section starts at bar 72 and should be played with energy. Two verses of lyrics and the chorus are provided because this is a fun song to sing!

Near Banbridge town, in the County Down
One morning in July
Down a boren green came a sweet colleen
And she smiled as she passed me by.
She looked so sweet from her two white feet
To the sheen of her nut-brown hair
Such a coaxing elf, I'd to shake myself
To make sure I was standing there.

Chorus

From Bantry Bay up to Derry Quay
And from Galway to Dublin town
No maid I've seen like the sweet colleen
That I met in the County Down.

As she onward sped I shook my head
And I gazed with a feeling rare
And I said, says I, to a passerby
“Who's the maid with the nut-brown hair?”
He smiled at me, and with pride says he,
“That's the gem of Ireland's crown.
She's young Rosie McCann from the banks of the Bann
She's the star of the County Down.”

Irish Whistle

(Variations on "The Star of the County Down")

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:00

Traditional
Arranged by Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

Lyrical (♩ = 80)

rit.

5

Violins

Violins I and II staves with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

Viola

Viola staff with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

Cello

Cello staff with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

String Bass

String Bass staff with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

Vlns.

Violins I and II staves with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

Vla.

Viola staff with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

Cello

Cello staff with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

Str. Bass

String Bass staff with musical notation, including dynamics (mf) and articulation (V).

6 7 8 9 10

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

13

4

11 12 13 14 15 16

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

21

17 18 19 20 21

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div.

p

p *f*

22 23 24 25 26 27

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

ff

f

f

f

ff

ff

28 29 30 31 32 33 34

rit.

36 Quickly (♩ = 100)

Vlns. I *mf*
 Vlns. II *mf*
 Vla. *mf*
 Cello *mf*
 Str. Bass *mf*

f *f* *f* *f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

35 36 37 38 39

Vlns. I *pizz.*
 Vlns. II *pizz.*
 Vla. *pizz.*
 Cello *pizz.*
 Str. Bass *pizz.*

40 41 42 43 44 45 46

* Whistle the cue notes with the stems up and pizzicato the cue notes with the stems down.

48

Vlns. I arco *f*

Vlns. II arco *f*

Vla. pizz. *f* div.

Cello pizz. *f* div.

Str. Bass pizz. *f*

pizz. *f* div.

arco *f*

arco *f*

arco

47 48 49 50 51 52

56

Vlns. I pizz. *mf*

Vlns. II pizz. *mf*

Vla. pizz. + *mf*

Cello pizz. + *mf*

Str. Bass pizz. + *mf*

mf

53 54 55 56 57 58

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

64

arco -1

f arco

f arco

f

arco

f arco

59 60 61 62 63 64

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

65 66 67 68 69

72 Energetic (♩ = 100)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

70 71 72 73

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score for measures 70 through 73. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 70 and 71 show the initial melodic lines for the strings. Measure 72 begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and accents. Measure 73 continues this pattern. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

74 75 76

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score for measures 74 through 76. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 74 and 75 continue the melodic and rhythmic development from the previous system. Measure 76 concludes the section with sustained notes and accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

78

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

77 78 79

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pizz.

arco

80 81 82

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

arco

83 84 85

86 Driving energy (♩ = 100 or faster)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

86 87

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

88 89

90
I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

90 91

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

92 93

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

94 95 96

** Whistle the cue notes.

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