

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
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Lyricaly (♩ = 80)

rit.

5

Violins

Musical notation for Violins I and II, measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked *mf*. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present above measure 4. A box containing the number '5' is located above the final measure of this system.

Viola

Musical notation for Viola, measures 1-5. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 4.

Cello

Musical notation for Cello, measures 1-5. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 4.

String Bass

Musical notation for String Bass, measures 1-5. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 4.

Vlns.

Musical notation for Violins I and II, measures 6-10. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 8. A box containing the number '4' is located above the first measure of this system.

Vla.

Musical notation for Viola, measures 6-10. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 8.

Cello

Musical notation for Cello, measures 6-10. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 8.

Str. Bass

Musical notation for String Bass, measures 6-10. The notation includes stems, beams, and slurs. A 'rit.' marking is present above measure 8.

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

f

f

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* *f*

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. div. *f*

Cello pizz. div. *f*

Str. Bass pizz. *f*

pizz. div. *f*

arco *f*

arco *f*

arco *f*

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. The tempo is marked as 'Energetic' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is 'f' (forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on 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. The dynamic marking is 'f' (forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

78

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

77 78 79

Vlns. 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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