



Selections from

American Idiot – The Musical

Featuring *Jesus of Suburbia, Holiday, Boulevard of Broken Dreams, Wake Me Up When September Ends* and *American Idiot*

Words by BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG

Music by GREEN DAY

Arranged by TOM KITT

Arranged for Concert String Orchestra by ERIC GORFAIN

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
 - 8 1st Violin
 - 8 2nd Violin
 - 5 Viola
 - 5 Cello
 - 5 String Bass
-

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

All Belwin string parts have been carefully bowed and fingered appropriately by level. The Yellow Very Beginning series includes many bowings as well as reminder fingerings for first-time readers. The Red Beginning series includes frequent bowings to assist younger players. Fingerings for altered pitches are often marked. The Green Intermediate series includes appropriately placed bowings for middle-level students. Fingerings and positions are marked for notes beyond first position. The Blue Concert series includes bowings appropriate for the experienced high school player. Fingerings and position markings are indicated for difficult passages.

Bob Phillips
Belwin/Pop String Editor

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

American Idiot – The Musical brings the music of Green Day to the Broadway musical stage; an unlikely pairing, if there ever was one. But the energy and infectiousness of Green Day's songs translate from the arena stage to the Broadway stage without question. This string orchestra arrangement of a medley of five songs from *American Idiot* captures the pathos, the pomp, and the punk spirit of Green Day.

As with much of Green Day's music, tight rhythmic cohesion is the key to a successful performance. Some of the tunes in the medley go by at a rapid pace, so make sure that the orchestra isn't dragging the tempo or generally performing with a lack of intensity. As conductor, feel free to conduct "in 2" where applicable, but please adhere to the abrupt tempo changes between songs as intended.

Opening with the first minute of "Jesus of Suburbia" (which stretches 9 minutes and is a medley of its own), the orchestra kicks off this *American Idiot* medley with huge crashing chords. Accents and articulations are indicated throughout the medley but are incredibly important here so as to establish the rock & roll feel right away. There isn't much dynamic range in this first section, so make sure that the melody lines always rise above the rhythmic bed.

"Holiday," the second song in the medley, appears at m. 37 after the orchestra hits a sustained chord in m. 35 to end "Jesus of Suburbia." Remember that this section swings! The cellos play the aggressive bass line; depending on the size of the cello section, you might want to experiment with having a solo cello or just one or two stands of cello play this four-bar line in order to create a more stark dynamic effect. The violins then enter with a quiet tremolo purr to be played at the tip of the bow while the violas continue to establish the swung feel and build anticipation that culminates in the whole orchestra coming together at m. 45. The violas continue singing while the rest of the instruments pound out the militaristic chords. Second violins play the melody line of the verse starting at m. 49, and then play a harmonized chorus melody with the 1st violins starting at letter B. At letter C (m. 66), the cello and contrabass bring back the first bass line before the section ends with the big unison "F" note on the fourth beat of m. 73.

During that held chord, introduce the new, slower tempo for the next song, "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," that begins at m. 77. Straightforward in its performance, this ballad has a pretty melody that is to be played legato (first by the violas) despite the rhythmic complexities; in other words, it sounds a lot simpler and relaxed than it looks! The dynamics are important in this section as each instrument is playing its own role in the arrangement. In mm. 85–92, the 1st and 2nd violins play in octaves but with tremolo in the 1st violins. Experiment with dynamics between the two violin sections so that the balance created feels right without being heavy handed. The same instructions apply to the 2nd violins and violas in mm. 97–105, though this time the tremolo/bowed effect gives the lead guitar line power and texture...and volume! The 1st violins have a two-measure tremolo with a long slide up to a marked high C#, though it's not necessary to hit that final note as long as the slide upwards is chaotically frantic.

A pregnant pause will provide a nice breather before the next song, another poignant ballad called "Wake Me Up When September Ends." The violins and contrabass pizzicato quietly before the violas enter with the melody, then the "band" kicks in at m. 114 with a firm but gentle feel. Second violins have chorded tremolos in mm. 130–137, which can be played divisi or, for more advanced players, as double stops as long as they aren't played too loudly. At letter F, a short chorale-like interlude taken from the stage version of the song connects this tune to the last song of the medley, "American Idiot." The marked dynamics of the interlude are crucial as they create a bridge from the quiet ballad to the final pop punk deluge, so build into m. 146 as much as possible.

"American Idiot" exudes power, frustration, and angst, so the tempo pushes, the rhythms need to be tight, and the volume is somewhere between 10 and 15...in other words, go ahead and blow WAY past 11! In m. 154, the contrabass has quarter note "4 to the floor" rhythmic pizzicato pulses. These can be played at pitch with Bartok pizzicato or can be "thumped" like a kick drum with muted, non-pitched slaps or plucks. Let the bass section have some fun with it, but remaining in tempo is really important.

The fourth beats of m. 185 and m. 189 in the 1st violins have a high octave "G" hit that slides down to the next downbeat. This can be played at pitch or can be just a random high note aggressively attacked at the frog of the bow with a quick slide down to the following downbeat—do whatever works best for your violin section. Otherwise, this section of the medley is fast and furious, and should be a lot of fun to play!

Selections from
American Idiot – The Musical

Featuring JESUS OF SUBURBIA, HOLIDAY, BOULEVARD OF BROKEN DREAMS,
 WAKE ME UP WHEN SEPTEMBER ENDS and AMERICAN IDIOT

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 5:30

Words by BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG Music by GREEN DAY

Arranged by TOM KITT

Arranged for Concert String Orchestra by Eric Gorfain

"Jesus of Suburbia"
 Rock (♩ = 142)

Violins
 I
 II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Vlns.
 I
 II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div.
f
sim.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

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9

div.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

9 10 11 12

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

sim.

13 14 15 16

17

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

17 18 19 20

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

21 22 23 24

div.

27

Vlns.

I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

25

26

27

28

29

Vlns.

I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

30

31

32

33

34

37

"Holiday"
Swing! (♩ = 146) (♩ = $\bar{\cdot}^3\bar{\cdot}$)

Vlns.

Measures 35-39. Measures 35 and 36 show Vlns. I and II, Vla., and Cello with long notes and hairpins. Measure 37 starts the "Holiday" section with a key signature change to B-flat major. Measures 38 and 39 continue the melody. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Str. Bass

Vlns.

Measures 40-44. Measures 40 and 41 show Vlns. I and II with notes marked "at the tip" and "p". Measure 42 shows Vla. with notes marked "mf". Measures 43 and 44 show Cello and Str. Bass with notes marked "f" and triplets. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Cello

Str. Bass

45 *div.* *f*

Vlns. I *div.* *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *sim.*

Cello

Str. Bass *f*

45 46 47 48

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

49 50 51 52

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

53 54 55 56

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

57 58 59 60

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

61 62 63 64

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

65 66 67 68

mf

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

69 70 71 72

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

73 74 75 76

rit.

f

77

"Boulevard of Broken Dreams"
Mid-Tempo Rock (♩ = 83)

Vlns.

II *mp*

Vla. *mf*

Cello

Str. Bass *pizz.* *mf*

77 78 79 80

Vlns.

II *mp*

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

81 82 83

85

Vlns.

First system of musical notation (measures 84-86). The system includes staves for Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 84 shows Vlns. I and II playing a half note chord, while Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass are silent. Measure 85 shows Vlns. I and II playing a half note chord, Vla. playing a half note, Cello playing a half note, and Str. Bass playing a half note. Measure 86 shows Vlns. I and II playing a half note chord, Vla. playing a half note, Cello playing a half note, and Str. Bass playing a half note. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. A large red watermark "Preview Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the page.

84

85

86

Vlns.

Second system of musical notation (measures 87-89). The system includes staves for Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 87 shows Vlns. I and II playing a half note chord, Vla. playing a half note, Cello playing a half note, and Str. Bass playing a half note. Measure 88 shows Vlns. I and II playing a half note chord, Vla. playing a half note, Cello playing a half note, and Str. Bass playing a half note. Measure 89 shows Vlns. I and II playing a half note chord, Vla. playing a half note, Cello playing a half note, and Str. Bass playing a half note. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. A large red watermark "Preview Use Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the page.

87

88

89

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 90, 91, and 92 are shown. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

Violins (Vlns.): Measure 90 has a whole note chord. Measure 91 has a whole note chord. Measure 92 has a whole note chord, marked *ff*.

Viola (Vla.): Measure 90 has a whole note chord, marked *f*. Measure 91 has a whole note chord. Measure 92 has a whole note chord, marked *ff*.

Cello: Measure 90 has a whole note chord, marked *f*. Measure 91 has a whole note chord. Measure 92 has a whole note chord, marked *ff*.

String Bass (Str. Bass): Measure 90 has a whole note chord. Measure 91 has a whole note chord. Measure 92 has a whole note chord, marked *ff*.

Measures 90, 91, and 92 are marked with *ff* (fortissimo) dynamics.

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 93, 94, 95, and 96 are shown. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat).

Violins (Vlns.): Measure 93 has a whole note chord. Measure 94 has a whole note chord. Measure 95 has a whole note chord. Measure 96 has a whole note chord, marked *f*.

Viola (Vla.): Measure 93 has a whole note chord, marked *mf*. Measure 94 has a whole note chord. Measure 95 has a whole note chord. Measure 96 has a whole note chord, marked *f*.

Cello: Measure 93 has a whole note chord, marked *mf*. Measure 94 has a whole note chord. Measure 95 has a whole note chord. Measure 96 has a whole note chord, marked *f*.

String Bass (Str. Bass): Measure 93 has a whole note chord, marked *mf*. Measure 94 has a whole note chord. Measure 95 has a whole note chord. Measure 96 has a whole note chord, marked *arco*.

Measures 93, 94, 95, and 96 are marked with *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamics.

div.
mf

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

97 98 99

div.
f
mf

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

100 101 102

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f *p* *ff* *div.* *ff* *ff*

103 104 105

“Wake Me Up When September Ends”

106 **Wistful** (♩ = 106)

pizz. *p* *pizz.* *p* *pizz.* *p*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

p *p* *p* *p*

106 107 108 109

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

110 111 112 113

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f *arco*

114 115 116 117

Score for measures 118-121, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 118-121 show a melodic line in the Violins and Viola, with the Cello and String Bass providing harmonic support. The Cello part includes a double bar line and a repeat sign in measure 119.

Measures 118 119 120 121

Score for measures 122-125, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 122-125 show a melodic line in the Violins and Viola, with the Cello and String Bass providing harmonic support. The Cello part includes a double bar line and a repeat sign in measure 124.

Measures 122 123 124 125

126

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

126 127 128 129

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

div.

mf

(*mf*)

arco

f

arco

f

130 131 132

Score for measures 133-135, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass.

Measures 133, 134, and 135 are shown. The score includes Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass parts. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Score for measures 136-139, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass.

Measures 136, 137, 138, and 139 are shown. The score includes Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass parts. Measure 138 is marked "Chorale (♩ = 83)". Dynamics include *rit.*, *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

146 "American Idiot" Punk Rock (♩ = 93)

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

ff

f

Str. Bass

146 147 148

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

149 150 151 152

sim.

sim.

sim.

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

153 154 155 156

(f)

pizz.

arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pizz.

arco

157 158 159 160

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pizz.

arco

161 162 163 164

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 165-168.

Violins I and II play a melodic line with accents. Viola and Cello play a supporting line. String Bass plays a bass line with a pizzicato (pizz.) instruction at measure 166 and arco instruction at measure 168.

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 169-172.

Violins I and II play a melodic line with accents. Viola and Cello play a supporting line. String Bass plays a bass line. Measures 171 and 172 are marked *sim.* (sforzando).

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

173 174 175

This block contains the musical notation for measures 173, 174, and 175. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Violin parts have a 'V' marking above the first measure of each staff. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

176 177 178 179

This block contains the musical notation for measures 176, 177, 178, and 179. It features the same five staves as the previous block. The Violin parts have a 'V' marking above the first measure of each staff in measure 178. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts continue their accompaniment. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I

Vlns.

II

Vla. *sim.*

Cello *sim.*

Str. Bass

180 181 182

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div.

183 184 185 186

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div.

187 188 189 190

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

191 192 193

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