

STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Blues Fiddle on the Fringe

Julie Lyonn Lieberman

INSTRUMENTATION

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

Program Notes

When immigrants first settled in America, they imported European classical and Celtic styles on the violin. As they established their lives on American soil, fiddlers evolved a new music, called old-time music. The second musical style created in America by fiddlers (and singers) was “the blues.” Enslaved fiddlers—taught to play the fiddle to increase their value to the plantation owner—helped develop this vibrant style, which later influenced the evolution of rhythm and blues (R&B), bluegrass, rock, and jazz.

When today’s string players learn to play the blues, they are learning about the building blocks of American music and the history of their own instrument.

Notes to the Conductor

Turn your orchestra into a finger-snapping, clapping, chopping, movin’, groovin’ party. Written in C, this upbeat musical romp with the blues offers simple melodic parts that have been layered to create a thick, festive texture. This piece will provide your students with the opportunity to explore the art of “jamming.” Usually referred to as “improvisation,” the word “jamming” is far more inviting, less intimidating, and describes the ability to get together with fellow musicians and “play” (pun intended) with musical ideas without relying on written music. Students can use a C pentatonic scale (C-E-F-G-B $\flat$ -C) to explore creating their own original ideas. For an in-depth experience, they can also learn the F and G pentatonic scales, and learn to play note-appropriate solos across those three chords as indicated in the soloing section of the tune by the chord changes. (You can refer to *Rockin’ Out with Blues Fiddle* by Julie Lyonn Lieberman for support.)

You will have a few logistical issues to deal with: safely resting one’s instrument in one’s lap while snapping/clapping, spinning the larger instruments without dropping the bow or injuring either piece of equipment, and the chop technique (see the DVD *Techniques for the Contemporary String Player* for assistance). It’s advisable to isolate and rehearse protocol for each of these maneuvers separate from rehearsing the piece. If your students aren’t up to the task, you can always substitute simpler moves, like tapping the heel of the instrument rather than clapping, or rocking the instruments rather than spinning them.



Blues Fiddle on the Fringe

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 4:00

Julie Lyonn Lieberman

Swing Eighthths ($\text{♩} = 120$) ($\text{♩} = \text{♩}^3$)

Introduction

Violins

I

mf snap clap clap *sim.*

II

mf snap clap clap *sim.*

Viola

mf snap clap clap *sim.*

Cello

**chop* arco

Stand up and spin your instrument on its end-pin two times.

mf arco

String Bass

**chop* arco

Spin your instrument on its end-pin two times.

mf

Drumset

1

2

3

4

Vlns.

I

mf Lo 1

II

pp

Vla.

pp

Cello

Str. Bass

Drumset

B.D.

mf

5

6

7

8

9

H.H. ○ = open

Tom

*Chop Technique: Drape left-hand fingers across strings and drop bow vertically (at frog) onto two lowest strings to create percussive sound. Or, play a "C" note and drop bow percussively (at frog) in a vertical motion onto string. See DVD "Techniques for the Contemporary String Player" for details.

Vlns. I *Lo 4*
 Vlns. II *mf* *Lo 1*
 Vla. *mf* *Lo 1*
 Cello *x1* *x4*
 Str. Bass
 Drumset *Cr. Cym.* *S.D.* *ff* *Floor Tom* *H.H. Ped.*

10 11 12 13 14

Vlns. I *f*
 Vlns. II *f*
 Vla. *f*
 Cello *chop* *f* *pizz.*
 Str. Bass *f* *-4* *-1* *-1* *4* *4* *-1*
 Drumset *f* *T.T.* *3*

15 16 17 18 19

This musical score is for measures 20 through 24 of the piece 'The Heart of the Matter' by John Williams. The score is arranged for a symphony orchestra and includes parts for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Drumset. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score features a variety of musical notations, including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark reading 'Copyright © 2014 by John Williams' is overlaid on the score.

Violins I (Vlns. I): Measures 20-21 feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measures 22-24 continue this line with some rests and a final flourish in measure 24.

Violins II (Vlns. II): Measures 20-21 are mostly rests. Measures 22-24 feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a 'Lo 1' marking in measure 24.

Viola (Vla.): Measures 20-21 are mostly rests. Measures 22-24 feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including a 'Lo 1' marking in measure 22.

Cello: Measures 20-21 feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measures 22-24 continue this line with some rests and a final flourish in measure 24.

String Bass (Str. Bass): Measures 20-21 feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measures 22-24 continue this line with some rests and a final flourish in measure 24.

Drumset: Measures 20-21 feature a steady eighth-note pattern. Measures 22-24 continue this pattern with some rests and a final flourish in measure 24.

[illegible]

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Drumset

30 31 32 33 34

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Drumset

35 36 37 38 39

39

*chop

fff

mp

fff

fff

mp pizz.

fff

mp

Score for measures 40-44, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, and Drumset.

Measures 40-44:

- Vlns. I & II:** Vlns. I plays a series of eighth notes with accents. Vlns. II plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *pp* at measure 41 and *mf* at measure 44.
- Vla.:** Violoncello plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *pp* at measure 41 and *mf* at measure 44.
- Cello:** Cello plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *mf* at measure 44.
- Str. Bass:** String Bass plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *pp* at measure 41 and *mf* at measure 44.
- Drumset:** Drumset plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *pp* at measure 41 and *mf* at measure 44.

Measures 40, 41, 42, 43, 44 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Score for measures 45-48, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, and Drumset.

Measures 45-48:

- Vlns. I & II:** Vlns. I plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *f* at measure 45 and *fff* at measure 48. Vlns. II plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *f* at measure 45 and *fff* at measure 48.
- Vla.:** Violoncello plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *f* at measure 45 and *fff* at measure 48.
- Cello:** Cello plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *f* at measure 45 and *fff* at measure 48.
- Str. Bass:** String Bass plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *f* at measure 45 and *fff* at measure 48.
- Drumset:** Drumset plays a series of eighth notes with accents, marked *f* at measure 45 and *fff* at measure 48.

Measures 45, 46, 47, 48 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Solos
C7

49

Solo Vlns.
I
II

Solo Vla.

Solo Cello

f
C7

Play as many times as there are soloists.

49

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Drumset

mp
pizz.

mp
pizz.

mp

49 50 51 52

Score for measures 53-56, featuring Solo Violins, Solo Viola, Solo Cello, Violins, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Drumset.

Measures 53-54: Solo Violins (I & II), Solo Viola, and Solo Cello play a melodic line with **F7** and **C7** chords. Violins (I & II), Viola, and Cello provide harmonic support with **p** and **mp** dynamics. String Bass and Drumset provide a steady bass line.

Measures 55-56: Solo Violins (I & II), Solo Viola, and Solo Cello continue the melodic line. Violins (I & II), Viola, and Cello provide harmonic support. String Bass and Drumset provide a steady bass line.

Measures 53 54 55 56

Score for Solo Vlns. I & II, Solo Vla., Solo Cello, Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, and Drumset. The score is divided into two systems, each containing measures 57-60 and 61-64.

System 1 (Measures 57-60):

- Solo Vlns. I & II:** Features G7, F7, and C7 chords. Solo Vln. I has a triplet in measure 58. Solo Vln. II has a triplet in measure 59.
- Solo Vla.:** Features G7, F7, and C7 chords. A triplet is present in measure 59.
- Solo Cello:** Features G7, F7, and C7 chords.
- Vlns. I & II:** Dynamics range from *p* to *mp*. Vln. II has a "Lo 1" marking in measure 59.
- Vla.:** Features a triplet in measure 59.
- Cello:** Features a triplet in measure 59.
- Str. Bass:** Features a triplet in measure 59.
- Drumset:** Features a triplet in measure 59.

System 2 (Measures 61-64):

- Vlns. I & II:** Dynamics range from *mp* to *fff*. Vln. II has a "Lo 4" marking in measure 62.
- Vla.:** Dynamics range from *mp* to *fff*. A "Lo 1" marking is present in measure 62.
- Cello:** Dynamics range from *mp* to *fff*. An "arco" marking is present in measure 62.
- Str. Bass:** Dynamics range from *mp* to *fff*. An "arco" marking is present in measure 62.
- Drumset:** Dynamics range from *mp* to *fff*. A triplet is present in measure 62.

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Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla.
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Drumset

tap tap tap *sim.*
 tap tap tap *sim.*
 tap tap tap *sim.*
 chop *mf* arco
 Stand up and spin your instrument on its end-pin two times. *mf* arco
 chop *mf*
 Spin your instrument on its end-pin two times. *mf*
 tap
 tap

65 66 67 68 69

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla.
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Drumset

f *ff* *f*
f *ff* *f*
f *sim.*
f
f

70 71 72 73

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla.
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Drumset

ff
ff
sim.

74 75 76 77

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla.
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Drumset

f
f

78 79 80 81 82

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