

# STRING EXPLORER SERIES

## El Gato Pizzicato

By Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

### INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score.....	1
Violin I.....	8
Violin II.....	8
Viola.....	5
Violin III (Viola  .....	3
Cello.....	5
String Bass.....	5
Piano Accompaniment.....	1
Percussion (Maracas or Cabasa, Claves).....	2

### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Your students' imaginations will run wild as they rehearse and perform this charming Spanish-flavored salute to cats. A great way to introduce shifting basics and high vs. low finger patterns, this selection is also a wonderful way for students to learn about tone painting.

The piece begins with a brief introduction based on the musical equivalent of the word "cat": C-A-"Ti". A simple main theme follows, derived from the opening arpeggio. Glissando "meows" are heard throughout the orchestra (an introduction to the basics of shifting).

The second section quotes the famous cat theme from Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* but in a minor key, depicting a not-so-friendly feline. A variety of "hisses" (performed by everyone in unison) confirm this cat's unsociable demeanor. As this section closes, however, the mood changes and the cat becomes more friendly and content. It is suggested that the vocalized "Meow" in measure 50 be performed as a solo, but can be assigned to more than one performer at the conductor's discretion.

The opening section then returns. The cat becomes quite relaxed (m. 52–55) and settles in for a nap, only to be startled by a noisy dog. The piece ends with a final "Hiss!" and a run to safety.



# El Gato Pizzicato

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

Duration - 2:30

Moderate Tango (♩ = 120)

Violins I

Violins II

Viola (Violin III)

Cello

String Bass

Percussion (Maracas or Cabasa, Claves)

Piano Accompaniment

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Perc. Maracas or Cabasa

Claves

Piano Accomp.

2

Vlns. I pizz. 4 arco

Vlns. II pizz. arco

Vla. (Vln. III) pizz. 4 arco

Cello arco pizz.

Str. Bass arco pizz.

Perc.

Piano Accomp.

9 10 11 12

14

Vlns. I pizz. 4

Vlns. II pizz.

Vla. (Vln. III) pizz. arco *gliss.* pizz.

Cello arco pizz. arco *gliss.* pizz.

Str. Bass arco pizz. arco *gliss.* pizz.

Perc.

Piano Accomp.

14

13 14 15 16



Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Perc.

Piano Accomp.

pizz.

arco

4

25 26 27 28

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Perc.

Piano Accomp.

pizz.

arco

30

f

29 30 31 32



Vlns. I *p* *ff* "Hiss!" *mp* arco

Vlns. II *p* *ff* "Hiss!"

Vla. (Vln. III) *ff* "Hiss!"

Cello *ff* "Hiss!"

Str. Bass *ff* "Hiss!"

Perc. *ff* "Hiss!"

Piano Accomp. *ff* *mp*

41 42 43 44

Vlns. I arco *ff* "Hiss!" *mf* *ff* "Hiss!" *f*

Vlns. II *mp* *ff* "Hiss!" *mf* *ff* "Hiss!" *f*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mp* *ff* "Hiss!" *mf* *ff* "Hiss!" *f*

Cello *mp* *ff* "Hiss!" *mf* *ff* "Hiss!" *f*

Str. Bass *mp* *ff* "Hiss!" *mf* *ff* "Hiss!" *f*

Perc. *ff* "Hiss!" *ff* "Hiss!" *rit.*

Piano Accomp. *ff* *mf* *ff* *f* *rit.*

45 46 47 48 49

Solo: "Me - ow" **Tempo I**  
**pizz. D.S. al Coda**

**Vlns. I**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f pizz.**

**Vlns. II**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f pizz.**

**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f pizz.**

**Cello**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f pizz.**

**Str. Bass**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f**

**Perc.**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f**

**Piano Accomp.**  
*contentedly*  
 Solo: "Me - ow" **f**

50 51

**Coda**

**Vlns. I**  
*arco*  
**mf mp**

**Vlns. II**  
*arco*  
**mf mp**

**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
*arco*  
**mf mp**

**Cello**  
**mf**

**Str. Bass**  
**mf**

**Perc.**  
**mf**

**Piano Accomp.**  
**mf mp**

52 53

**Very slowly** **Tempo I**  
 1st stand **All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" pizz.**

**Vlns. I**  
**p ff**  
**All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" f cresc. pizz. ff**

**Vlns. II**  
**ff**  
**All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" f cresc. pizz. ff**

**Vla. (Vln. III)**  
**ff**  
**All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" f cresc. pizz. ff**

**Cello**  
**mp**  
**All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" f cresc. pizz. ff**

**Str. Bass**  
**mp**  
**All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" f cresc. ff**

**Perc.**  
**mp**  
**All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!" f cresc. ff**

**Piano Accomp.**  
**mp**  
**Very slowly** **All: "Woof!" "Woof!" "Hiss!"**  
**Tempo I**  
**ff f cresc. ff**

54 55 56 57 58