

STRING EXPLORER SERIES

A Boomwhacker Christmas

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
Soloists	8

Imagine four soloists playing eight Boomwhackers on the heads of eight brave audience members while being accompanied by string orchestra. That's the scenario of this hilarious show-stopper. Your audience will love hearing "Jingle Bells," "Good King Wenceslas," and "Deck the Halls" like never before. Used by the composer with his own orchestra and guest teachers, this simple yet highly effective novelty number never fails! Complete staging instructions are included on the next page.



A Boomwhacker Christmas

Performance Instructions

Set-Up:

ORCHESTRA

Conductor

4 Standing Soloists:	Soloist 1	Soloist 2	Soloist 3	Soloist 4				
8 Seated Guests: (Facing Audience)	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
4 Music Stands:	X	X	X	X				

AUDIENCE

1. Begin the piece with no guests or soloists on stage, only 8 empty chairs and 4 music stands in front of the orchestra and conductor (see Set-Up). The guest chairs should be equally spaced and the 4 music stands for the soloists set as low as possible so the audience can see the guests.
2. Measures 1–2 should be treated as a “vamp”—repeat them as necessary while guests and soloists march in from the wings and get situated.
3. The soloists stand up for the entire piece, holding their lower note in their right hand, and their higher note in their left hand.
4. The guests should wear some sort of head protection—hard hats, football helmets, bike helmets, etc.
5. Measures 23–28 call for two additional props: a BIG Boomwhacker-type item such as large PVC piping 5’–6’ long, and a HUGE Boomwhacker-type item of 12’ or more! The tube inside a roll of carpet works great. Don’t worry about pitch as they are never actually struck during the piece. Before the piece begins, hide these two props from the audience behind the guest seats.
6. Soloists 2 and 3 put down their Boomwhackers and pick up these props when called for.
7. In measure 24, a cellist “dubs in” the two quarter notes, while Soloist 3 pantomimes them, never actually striking their guest’s head (but getting close enough to make it look real).
8. Directors wishing to skip the theatrics can use the optional cut from the end of m. 18 to m. 30.

A Boomwhacker Christmas

3

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 2:00

Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

Molto moderato (♩ = 104)
Vamp as necessary

Violins
I
II

Viola
(Violin III)

Cello
pizz.
mp

String Bass
pizz.
mp

Piano Accompaniment
mp
simile

Soloist 4
(B & C)

Soloist 3
(G & A)

Soloist 2
(E & F)

Soloist 1
(C & D)

1 2 3 4

Vlns.
I *pizz.*
mp
II *pizz.*
mp

Vla. (Vln. III)
pizz.
mp

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Soloist 4 (B & C)

Soloist 3 (G & A)

Soloist 2 (E & F)

Soloist 1 (C & D)

5 6 7 8 9

11

Vlns.

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Soloist 4 (B & C)

Soloist 3 (G & A)

Soloist 2 (E & F)

Soloist 1 (C & D)

10 11 12 13 14

19 *Optional cut to m. 30** *arco*

Vlns.

I

II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Soloist 4 (B & C)

Soloist 3 (G & A)

Soloist 2 (E & F)

Soloist 1 (C & D)

15 16 17 18 19

mf *arco*

mf *arco*

mf

mf *più legato*

Legal Use Requires Purchase

Vlns.

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Soloist 4 (B & C)

Soloist 3 (G & A)

Soloist 2 (E & F)

Soloist 1 (C & D)

V

Soli

f

arco

mf

arco

mf

f

Soli

V

Solo pizz.

f

f

(Boomwhacker)

Pick up BIG Boomwhacker

Pantomime (in rhythm)

20 21 22 23 24

25

Vlns.

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Soloist 4 (B & C)

Soloist 3 (G & A)

Soloist 2 (E & F)

Soloist 1 (C & D)

p *ff* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

Tutti

x1 *1* *2* *4*

Pick up HUGE Boomwhacker... ...and prepare to strike!

Conductor (wagging finger and scolding Soloist 3): "No, no, no!"
Soloist 3 (disappointed): "Aw, man!"

25 26 27 28

29 A tempo *Optional cut from m. 18

Vlns.
I pizz. mp
II pizz. mp

Vla. (Vln. III) pizz. mp

Cello pizz. mp

Str. Bass pizz. mp

Pno. Accomp. mp

Soloist 4 (B & C) f

Soloist 3 (G & A) f

Soloist 2 (E & F) f

Soloist 1 (C & D) f

29 30 31 32

Vlns.

Vla.
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.
Accomp.Soloist 4
(B & C)Soloist 3
(G & A)Soloist 2
(E & F)Soloist 1
(C & D)

36

36

*sim.**ff**f*

33

34

35

36

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla. (Vln. III)
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Pno. Accomp.
 Soloist 4 (B & C)
 Soloist 3 (G & A)
 Soloist 2 (E & F)
 Soloist 1 (C & D)

cresc.
f
 cresc.
f
 cresc.
f
 cresc.
f
ff

37 38 39 40 41

43

Vlns.

I

II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Soloist 4 (B & C)

Soloist 3 (G & A)

Soloist 2 (E & F)

Soloist 1 (C & D)

arco

p

f

(V)

42 43 44 45 46 47