

NOCTURNE

From *String Quartet No. 2*

Alexander Borodin

Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski

INSTRUMENTATION

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

In this arrangement of one of the most popular tunes in all of classical music, the marvelous melodies, counterpoint, and textures of Borodin's original composition remain, but are technically approachable, with options to accommodate varied abilities. This is a showpiece that performers and audiences will long remember.



Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

PROGRAM NOTES

Russian composer Alexander Borodin (1833–1887) originally composed his famous “Nocturne” in 1881 as the third movement of his *String Quartet No. 2*. He wrote the work after returning to life as a musician following a successful career as an accomplished physician and chemist. Borodin dedicated the quartet to his wife, and the “Nocturne” movement is said to be a remembrance of their courtship in Heidelberg, Germany.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Throughout the arrangement, *divisi* options—usually indicated with small “cue” notes—are provided as simplified alternatives in technically challenging sections. Whenever possible, the original, larger-note option is recommended in order to maintain clarity in scoring. As the piece begins, the syncopated and pulsating rhythm (2nd violin/viola/bass) should be audible, but not played staccato or loudly (the challenging hooked bowing may be played *detaché* at the tip of the bow). Throughout the initial presentation of the primary theme (beginning mm. 3–10, repeated), attention should be paid to articulations and dynamic levels, especially the hairpin swells that give direction and depth to the canonic voices. In the transition sections (mm. 17–18, 1st vln, and subsequently in other voices), the scales should be played off-the-string, if possible, whenever it appears. The 2nd violin accompaniment tremolo (mm. 19–26, repeated) should be performed quietly, at the tip of the bow, while coordinating with the steady, interlocking pizzicato eighth note line in the celli and basses. The final two measures of the famous main theme provide the material for the coda (mm. 52–59), traded among the upper four voices of the orchestra. The final held note fades to silence.

This arrangement is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Robert S. Frost (1942–2013), a superb arranger/composer, and champion of string teaching and orchestra performance.

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CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 3:15

Andante (♩ = 64)

Violins
I: *mp cantabile*
II: *p*

Viola
p

Cello
mf cantabile

String Bass

Vlns.
I: *p*
II: *pp*

Vla.
non divisi

Cello
p

Str. Bass

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

1. 2.

div.

3 1 2

9 10 11

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9, 10, and 11. Violin I and II parts are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Violin I has two endings: the first ending leads to measure 10, and the second ending leads to measure 11. The Viola part is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp. The Cello part is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. The String Bass part is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. Measure 9 features a 'div.' (divisi) instruction for the Viola. Measure 10 includes fingering numbers 3, 1, and 2 for the Cello. Measure 11 includes a 'V' (accents) marking for the Cello. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div.

3 -3 -1 3

12 13 14

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12, 13, and 14. Violin I and II parts are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The Viola part is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp. The Cello part is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. The String Bass part is in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp. Measure 12 features a 'div.' (divisi) instruction for the Viola. Measure 13 includes fingering numbers 3, -3, and -1 for the Cello. Measure 14 includes a '3' for the Cello. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

15

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

fp

div.

15 16 17 18

19

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

p

p *mp*

pizz. *p*

pizz. *p*

19 20 21 22

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

23 24 25 26

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 23 to 26. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Violin I part has first and second endings. The Viola part includes fingering numbers like -1, 3, -2, 3, -1, 3, 2, and -1. The Cello and String Bass parts provide a rhythmic and harmonic foundation. A large red watermark is overlaid across the score.

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

27 28 29 30

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 27 to 30. It continues the five-staff arrangement from the previous system. The Viola part includes fingering numbers (-1), 4, and (-1). The Cello part has a section labeled '1/2 Pos.' with fingering 1, 2, 2. The Violin I part has a second ending. The String Bass part continues the bass line. A large red watermark is overlaid across the score.

44

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. *pp*

Cello *mp* *opt. div.*

Str. Bass *pp*

44 45 46 47

Vlns. I *p* *mp*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. (M) (V)

Cello

Str. Bass

48 49 50 51

52

opt. div.

Vlns. I *p*

Vlns. II (V)

Vla. *ppp*

Cello (-1 2 4 V) *mp*

Str. Bass *ppp*

53 *mp*

54 *p*

55

Vlns. I *pp* *ppp*

Vlns. II *mp* 4 V *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *p* V *ppp*

Cello 4 V 2 *pp* *ppp*

Str. Bass V *pp* *ppp*

rit.

56 *pp* 57 58 *ppp* 59

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