

WEXFORD CAROL

Traditional Irish Carol

Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

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

In this sensitive arrangement of one of the world's oldest Christmas carols, the haunting melody is passed throughout the orchestra. Changing textures combine with shifting modes to create a lyric and peaceful atmosphere that surely will be remembered long after the concert is over.



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

This traditional Christmas carol originated in County Wexford on the east coast of Ireland. It reportedly dates from the 12th century, and is said to be one of the oldest carols still in existence. It also is known by its hymn tune name “Enniscorthy,” the Wexford town with which it has long been associated, and by its first verse, “Good People All This Christmas Time.” The haunting melody of the carol makes use of the ancient Mixolydian and Dorian modes (or scales), and conveys the peaceful spirit of the Christmas story.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The essence of the “Wexford Carol” lies in the gentle rocking of its 3/4 rhythm combined with its haunting modal context. The melodic and harmonic content alternate between a clear major tonality and Mixolydian/Dorian modes. The arrangement begins with a four-measure introduction that establishes this alternating tonal center, oriented around D.

Throughout the piece, the melodic voices and the accompaniment should always intermesh, creating a sense of continuity. For example, when the primary carol theme is heard in mm. 43–50 (1st violins), the active arco accompaniment in the lower voices and the moving eighth notes in the accompaniment should interlock continuously. The contrasting secondary carol theme is heard, rhythmically augmented, in Dorian mode in mm. 51–58 (2nd violin/viola/cello). A steady bass line and sustained 1st violin held notes serve as a transparent accompaniment in this section; care should be taken to attend to the recurring diminuendo markings.

The primary melody is presented in G major in mm. 64–79 (viola/cello), with rhythmic accompaniment (2nd violin/bass) and a new descant theme in 1st violins. This final thematic statement should be the dynamic zenith of the piece, with care taken to balance the theme and descant. After a brief diminuendo (m. 79), the piece closes with an eight-measure return to the introductory material (mm. 80–84), retreating to a final, fading held chord (m. 84).

Wexford Carol

3

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:30

Traditional Irish Carol
Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

Moderato, not hurried ($\text{♩} = 80$)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

This block contains the first four measures of the musical score for Violins, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Moderato, not hurried' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'mf-p'. The Violins and Viola parts have a 'V' marking above the first measure. The Cello and String Bass parts have a 'V' marking above the first measure. The Viola part has a 'Lo 2' marking above the second measure. The String Bass part has a '1' marking below the first measure. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlms.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

This block contains measures 5 through 8 of the musical score for Violins, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 3/4. The dynamics are marked 'p' for measures 5 and 6, and 'mf' for measures 7 and 8. The Viola part has a '(Melody)' marking above the first measure. The Cello part has a '(Melody)' marking above the first measure. The String Bass part has a '2' marking below the first measure. The Viola part has a '4' marking above the second measure. The Cello part has a '4' marking above the second measure. The String Bass part has a '2' marking below the first measure. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Score for measures 9-12, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass.

Vlns. I: Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 9-12 show melodic lines with various articulations and a fermata in measure 12.

Vlns. II: Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 9-12 are mostly rests, with a fermata in measure 12.

Vla.: Alto clef, key of D major. Measures 9-12 show a melodic line with slurs and accents. Measure 12 has a fermata.

Cello: Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 9-12 show a melodic line with slurs and accents. Measure 12 has a fermata.

Str. Bass: Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 9-12 show a melodic line with slurs and accents. Measure 12 has a fermata.

Measure numbers 9, 10, 11, and 12 are indicated below the staves.

Score for measures 13-16, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass.

Vlns. I: Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 13-16 show melodic lines with various articulations and a fermata in measure 16.

Vlns. II: Treble clef, key of D major. Measures 13-16 show melodic lines with various articulations and a fermata in measure 16.

Vla.: Alto clef, key of D major. Measures 13-16 show a melodic line with slurs and accents. Measure 16 has a fermata.

Cello: Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 13-16 show a melodic line with slurs and accents. Measure 16 has a fermata.

Str. Bass: Bass clef, key of D major. Measures 13-16 show a melodic line with slurs and accents. Measure 16 has a fermata.

Measure numbers 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated below the staves.

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Opt.

17 18 19 20

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

(Melody)

mf

mp

Lo 2

21 22 23 24

Score for measures 25-28, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 25-28 are marked with measure numbers 25, 26, 27, and 28. The score includes a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

Score for measures 29-32, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 29-32 are marked with measure numbers 29, 30, 31, and 32. The score includes a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase".

35 Lo 2

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

33 34 35 36

mf

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

37 38 39 40

mf

mf

mf

mf

41 42 43 44

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf *arco* *mf* *arco*

45 46 47 48

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

51

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

49 50 51 52 53 54

p *mf* *p*

broadly *Lo 2* *Lo 2* *Lo 2*

pizz.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

55 56 57 58 59

mf *p* *mf* *mf* *p*

arco

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

60 61 62 63

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

64 65 66 67

Score for measures 68-71, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 68-71 show the Violin I part with a first ending (Lo 1) and a first ending (1) marked. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide harmonic support.

Measures 68, 69, 70, and 71 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Score for measures 72-75, featuring Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Measures 72-75 show the Violin I part with a first ending (V) and a first ending (V) marked. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide harmonic support.

Measures 72, 73, 74, and 75 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

76 77 78 79

80

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf-p *mf-p* *mf-p* *mf-p* *mf-p*

rit. second time

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

80 81 82 83 84