

SCHOOL

By Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Narration	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

Pay tribute to your school with this imaginative musical portrait of the school day as viewed by typical students. Six creative musical interludes portray the subjects of the school day (History, Math, English, Physical Education, Science, and Orchestra), each introduced with a short poem read by a narrator. The delightful poems were written by middle-school students and offer amusing and enlightening insights into their encounters with the wonders (and perils) of education. The subjects are linked together by brief and hectic musical "passing periods" based on the "Promenade" from Mussorgsky's famous *Pictures at An Exhibition*. Use the poems included, or for a wonderful writing prompt, have your students compose their own! This is the perfect piece for an assembly, a concert for the parents, or a recruiting tour.

Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at www.alfred.com/stringeditorial.

X
extended position

-
shift

'
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (b)
high or low fingerings

▣▣ or V V
hooked bowings

I hope you will find these explanations to be helpful. Best wishes with all of your musical endeavors!



Chris M. Bernotas
Director of String Publications



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The P. E. section of this piece was written with a “traditional” orchestra seating in mind—first and second violins seated on the left side of the conductor with violas, cellos, and basses on the right side.

The director can choose to perform this piece using the poems included, or have students in their orchestra write poems of their own.

All poetry in this piece was written by students in the Oak Avenue Intermediate School Orchestra (Temple City, California).

Contributing students include:

Carol (Introduction & “English”), Noah and David (“History”), Ariel (“Mathematics”), Ella and Winston (“P.E.”), Chloe (“Science”), Dennis (“Orchestra”), Anna, Hermia, Carin, Liana, Braydon, Ellen, Rachelle and Elissa (“What is School?”)

School

FULL SCORE
Duration - 8:50

By Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

1. I arrive at school with a clear mind,
Ready to learn something new,
Preparing myself for the outside world.
Hoping to discover myself
And my future, too,
I wait for the bell to sound off . . .
With a RING!

Frantically (♩ = 140)

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

1 2 3 4

2. HISTORY

Surfing the timelines
 Seeing ancient shrines
 Meeting Joan of Arc
 Then to Ages of Dark

Akin to childhood story time,
 History tells tales better fitted for rhyme.
 Preserved in the yellowed pages that last
 Lie epic stories of eras now past.

5 6 7 8

9 Maestoso (♩ = 76) 10 11

14

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

12 13 14

Frog

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

15 16 17 18

22

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div.

ff

19 20 21 22

24 Frantically (♩ = 140)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

tr

ff

f

23 24 25 26

3. MATHEMATICS

Oh, mathematics
 So many quadratics
 Always confusing
 With numbers always moving

Problems and solutions
 So many distributions
 Mean, median and mode
 I feel like I'm gonna explode!

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

27 28 29 30

ff

tr (V)

31 Vivace (♩ = 144)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31 32 33

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

V

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

34 35 36

This block contains the musical notation for measures 34, 35, and 36. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 34 is in 3/4 time. At the start of measure 35, the time signature changes to 3/4 with a common time signature of 10/8. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed at the beginning of measure 35. A *V* (breath mark) is placed above the first note of measure 36 in the Violins II, Viola, and Cello staves. A large red watermark is overlaid across the score.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

37 38 39

This block contains the musical notation for measures 37, 38, and 39. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 37 is in 10/8 time. At the start of measure 38, the time signature changes to 4/4 with a common time signature of 10/8. A *V* (breath mark) is placed above the first note of measure 37 in the Violins II and Viola staves. A large red watermark is overlaid across the score.

42 pizz. mp

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

40 41 42 43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

44 45 46 47 48

arco

50

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

49 50 51

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf *mf* *mf*

52 53 54

57

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

55 56 57

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

58 59 60 61

63 Frantically (♩ = 140)

62 63 64 65

4. ENGLISH

A bundle of letters combines to form complex speech.
 A flow of words begins to spell out a story
 As a wave of emotions
 Are expressed in writing.
 Literature helps send a theme
 Or message
 To audiences of all ages.

66 67 68

* "Once upon a time" 70 Allegretto (♩ = 108) 72 "Suddenly!"

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

69 *p* 70 71 72

** "Scream!" (Solo) 76 "Luckily!"

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

73 *fp* *f* *arco* *f* *arco* *f* *fp* *ff* 74 75 76

*Measures 69, 72, 76, 78, 83 and 87 should be spoken by six different students from within the orchestra. Students should stand, speak, and then sit back down.

**The scream in measure 73 should be assigned to one person only, and performed by this "soloist" from their seat in the orchestra.

79 "And then!"

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

f marc. *p* *f*

77 78 79 80

83 "Happily ever after!"

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

f

81 82 83 84

"The end!"

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

85 86 87 88

89 Frantically (♩ = 140)

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

89 90 91 92

5. P.E.

P.E. is full of game after game
 Played by students whose clothes are the same.

Soccer, frisbee and basketball
 Coaches teach us to play them all.

But there is one game I dread so much--
 The times when volleyballs I must touch.

They always make us play that game
 And in the end it's all the same.

For every single time we play...
 I get hit in the face!

95 **Moderato** (♩ = 120)

The musical score consists of five staves: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 93 starts with a dynamic of *ff* and a *fr* (V) marking. Measure 94 continues with *ff*. Measure 95 is marked with a box and **Moderato** (♩ = 120). The dynamic changes to *f* with a *pizz.* marking. Measures 96 and 97 continue with *f* and *pizz.* markings. The score ends with a *f* dynamic marking below the staff.

*One student from the middle of the violin section and one student from the middle of the viola/cello section should stand up (with no instrument) and, while facing each other, pantomime the motion of hitting a volleyball back and forth, "hitting" the ball when their side of the orchestra plays a note. On beat two of measure 103, the viola/cello student yells "Ouch!" while doubling over and covering their face.

Slowly (♩ = 72)

Solo arco $\overset{\vee}{\underline{\underline{\quad}}}$ *slow gliss.*

Tutti pizz.

accelerando

Vlns. I **ff** *p* **f** **f**
 Vlns. II **ff** *p* **f** **f**
 Vla. **fff** *fff* **f** **f**
 Cello **fff** *fff* **f** **f**
 Str. Bass **fff** *fff* **f** **f**

snap pizz. "Ouch!" pizz.
 snap pizz. "Ouch!" pizz.
 snap pizz. "Ouch!" pizz.

98 99 100 101 102 103

105 Frantically (♩ = 140)

Vlns. I **ff** **f**
 Vlns. II **f**
 Vla. **f**
 Cello **f**
 Str. Bass **f**

arco *tr* $\overset{\vee}{\square}$ $\overset{\vee}{\square}$ $\overset{\vee}{\square}$ $\overset{\vee}{\square}$

104 105 106 107

6. SCIENCE

The one that lurks in shadows
The one that surprises us, in many ways
Oh how it fascinates
Oh how it interests
Oh how it disgusts!
Animals camouflage, the earth moves
Why is it? How is it so?
These are questions that science can answer.
Where is it? In a deep dark cave?
Perhaps it is in the most dangerous place of all—
Your brain.

Musical score for measures 108-110. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 108 shows the beginning of a melodic line in all instruments. Measure 109 features a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a fermata over the final note of each instrument. Measure 110 continues the melodic line. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 111-114. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 111 is marked with a box containing '111' and the tempo instruction 'Misterioso (♩ = 100)'. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte). Measures 112-114 feature a complex texture with rapid sixteenth-note passages in the Violins and Viola, and sustained chords in the Cello and String Bass. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measure 113. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

I
Vlns. *mf*

II
Vlns. *mf*

Vla. *f* *Soli*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

115 116 117 118

I
Vlns. *p*

II
Vlns. *p*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *p*

119 120 121 122

Musical score for measures 123-126. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. Measure 123 starts with a *mp* dynamic for Violins I and a *p* dynamic for Viola. Measure 124 features a *f* dynamic for Violins I and II, and a *f* dynamic for Cello. Measure 125 includes a *div.* marking for Violins I and II, and a *f* dynamic for Cello. Measure 126 continues with a *f* dynamic for Cello. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Musical score for measures 127-130. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. Measure 127 has a *mf* dynamic for Violins I and II, and a *f* dynamic for Viola. Measure 128 features a *div.* marking for Violins I and II, and a *f* dynamic for Viola. Measure 129 includes a *div.* marking for Violins I and II, and a *f* dynamic for Viola. Measure 130 continues with a *f* dynamic for Viola. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

131 Frantically (♩ = 140)

Musical score for measures 131-134, Frantically. The score is for Violins I & II, Viola, Cello, and Str. Bass. The tempo is marked as Frantically (♩ = 140). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked as *ff* (fortissimo) and *f* (forte). The score includes a large red watermark that reads "Preview Use Requires Purchase".

7. ORCHESTRA

Running into the orchestra room,
 Entering that familiar building—
 Not because I'm late
 Not because I have a question to ask
 Because I love music.

The rumbling, rumbling of the bass
 Then, entering with a beautiful melody, the violins
 Newly arrived, the violas bring a peaceful harmony
 Now, the cellos provide a deep tone to soothe the audience
 In their midst, the conductor,
 A lone figure, standing high.

136 Andante semplice (♩ = 100)

Musical score for measures 135-139, Andante semplice. The score is for Violins I & II, Viola, Cello, and Str. Bass. The tempo is marked as Andante semplice (♩ = 100). The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. The dynamics are marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte). The score includes a large red watermark that reads "Preview Use Requires Purchase".

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

mp 140 141 142 143 144 145

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

cresc. *f* *cresc.* *f* *f* *f*

146 147 148 149 150 151

152 153 154 155 156

8. WHAT IS SCHOOL?

More than just the subjects you learn every day.
More than just a building with desks inside.

School is a place where you discover who you are
And learn what you're good at.

It's a place filled with love and spirit and pride,
A bond between friends and teachers and staff.
It's somewhere you can always come back to.

Sometimes there are hardships.
It's stressful and painful and
Sometimes it makes us have tears in our eyes.
But we're always pushing through, aiming for achievement.

School is the place where you're prepared to take on the world.
Where you meet the people who will change your life
And pave your path with their knowledge.

School is a world . . .
Filled with possibilities.

157 *Repeat ms. 157-160 until directed

157 158 159 160

*Repeat measures 157-160 while final poem is read. Play on after conclusion of the poem.

161

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

arco

f

f

f

f

161 162 163 164 165

rit. al fine

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

dim.

dim.

mf

mf

p

p

p

p

mf

p

166 167 168 169 170 171