

Irish Dances

By Bob Phillips

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Full Score	Educational Packs
8 Violin I	1 Violin
8 Violin II	1 Viola
5 Viola	1 Cello
5 Violin III (Viola )	1 String Bass
5 Cello	
5 String Bass	
1 Piano Accompaniment	

PROGRAM NOTES

Toes will tap, eyes will shine, and smiles will abound when playing *Irish Dances*! Very accessible, easier than it looks, and fun! This lively piece includes “Kerry Polka” and “John Ryan’s Polka,” arranged for ease of playing by Bob Phillips. A great choice to introduce basic slurring and changing bow speed.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

All quarter notes should be played with a slight accent to create a dance-like energy. The slurs going from the ‘and’ of beat 4 to beat 1 are always down bow slurs and are there to avoid backwards bowings. Since this is the easiest and most basic slur pattern possible, it is a great opportunity to introduce slurs to all instruments. The accents in “John Ryan’s Polka” should be played with fast bow speeds, returning to a medium bow speed until the next accent appears. This piece can be successfully played at a variety of tempos. It is marked at $\text{♩} = 140$ but can be played slower or much faster depending on your students’ development.

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

▮▮ or V V
hooked bowings

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Dedicated to Tim Staudacher, Larry Halverson, and the Lanford Lads

Irish Dances

FULL SCORE
Duration - 2:05

Featuring Kerry Polka and John Ryan's Polka

Traditional Irish Fiddle Tunes
Arranged by Bob Phillips (ASCAP)

Dance-like ♩ = 140

Violins
I *mf*
II *mf*

Viola (Violin III)
mf

Cello
mf

String Bass
mf

Piano Accompaniment (Optional)
mf

Vlins.
I *f*
II *f*

Vla. (Vln. III)
f

Cello
f

Str. Bass
f

Pno. Accomp.
f

"Kerry Polka"

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8



4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

9 10 11 12

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

13 14 15 16

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla. (Vln. III)
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Pno. Accomp.

17 18 19 20

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla. (Vln. III)
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Pno. Accomp.

21 22 23 24

Score for measures 25-28. The score includes parts for Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, String Bass, and Piano Accompaniment. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Measures 25-28 show a rhythmic pattern in the strings and piano accompaniment. The Violins I and II parts are mostly rests, with some eighth notes in measure 26. The Viola (Violin III) part has a similar pattern. The Cello and String Bass parts play a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Piano Accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Measure numbers: 25, 26, 27, 28.

Score for measures 29-32. The score includes parts for Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, String Bass, and Piano Accompaniment. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Measures 29-32 show a continuation of the rhythmic pattern. The Violins I and II parts are mostly rests, with some eighth notes in measure 29. The Viola (Violin III) part has a similar pattern. The Cello and String Bass parts play a steady eighth-note rhythm. The Piano Accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Measure numbers: 29, 30, 31, 32.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

33 34 35 36

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

37 38 39 40

41 "John Ryan's Polka"

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

41 42 43 44

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

45 46 47 48

49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

49 50 51 52

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

53 54 55 56

57

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.
Accomp.

57 58 59 60

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.
(Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.
Accomp.

61 62 63 64

65

Vlns. I *ff*

Vlns. II *ff*

Vla. (Vln. III) *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff*

Pno. Accomp. *ff*

65 66 67 68

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

69 70 71 72