

A LITTLE ACADEMIC FESTIVAL

By Johannes Brahms
Arranged by Michael Hopkins

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score.....	1
Violin I	8
Violin II.....	8
Violin III (Viola tr).....	5
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

PROGRAM NOTES

The great composer Johannes Brahms (1833–1897) composed the *Academic Festival Overture*, Op. 80, during the summer of 1880 for the University of Breslau, which was awarding him an honorary doctorate in music. In the overture, Brahms included popular student songs from the time. This arrangement of themes from the overture, by Michael Hopkins, includes three of the student songs. After a brief, march-like introduction in mm. 1–10, the first college song is “Wir hatten gebauet ein stattliches Haus” (We have built a stately house) in mm. 11–23. One of Brahms’ original themes is presented in mm. 23–35. This leads to the second student song, “Was kommt dort von der Höh” (What comes from afar?), a light and playful tr song in mm. 35–57. The arrangement ends with the triumphant graduation song “Gaudeamus igitur” (Therefore, let us rejoice). Featuring all sections of the orchestra on melodic themes, this arrangement is a great piece for teaching bow distribution, alternating pizz and arco, repeated down bows, and using full bows.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Many recordings by professional orchestras are available to play for your students so they can hear how Brahms cleverly orchestrated these simple college songs for full orchestra. The *Academic Festival Overture* is one of Brahms’ most popular and enduring orchestral works.

In mm. 45–56, the violins should play with short, repeated down bows near the frog, with the rest of the orchestra joining them on repeated down bows in mm. 55–56.

Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, editorial markings are often open to interpretation. We make every effort to provide consistent bowings, fingerings, and other markings that are specifically tailored to the grade level of the music. In general, these technical markings are provided only at their initial appearance. This pedagogical approach is designed to encourage students to recognize recurring patterns and foster musical independence, rather than relying on redundant markings throughout the music.



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A Little Academic Festival

FULL SCORE
Duration - 2:25

By Johannes Brahms
Arranged by Michael Hopkins (BMI)

Allegro ♩ = 120

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Allegro' with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute. The dynamics are *p* (piano) for measures 1-2 and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 3-4. The instruments are Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. Measure 1 features a four-measure rest for the Violins. Measure 2 features a two-measure rest for the Violins. Measure 3 features a two-measure rest for the Viola. Measure 4 features a two-measure rest for the Cello. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

Violins I
Violins II
Viola (Violin III)
Cello
String Bass

1 2 3 4

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamics are *f* (forte) for all instruments. The instruments are Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. Measure 5 features a four-measure rest for the Violins. Measure 6 features a four-measure rest for the Viola. Measure 7 features a four-measure rest for the Cello. Measure 8 features a two-measure rest for the Cello. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

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

5 6 7 8

Score for Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass, measures 9-12.

Violins I and II: *pizz.* (measures 9-10), *arco* (measure 11), *p* (measures 11-12). Measure 11 includes a circled number 11.

Viola (Violin III): *pizz.* (measures 9-10), *arco* (measure 11), *p* (measures 11-12). Measure 11 includes a circled number 4.

Cello and String Bass: *p* (measures 11-12). Measure 11 includes a circled number 4.

Measures 9, 10, 11, and 12 are indicated at the bottom.

Score for Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass, measures 13-16.

Violins I and II: *Lo 2* (measure 13), *4* (measure 15).

Viola (Violin III): *0* (measure 13), *4* (measure 15).

Cello and String Bass: *4* (measure 15).

Measures 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated at the bottom.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

17 18 19 20

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

21 22 23 24

I
Vlns. *p*

II
Vlns. *p*

Vla. (Vln. III)
p

Cello
pizz.
p

Str. Bass
pizz.
p

25 26 27 28

I
Vlns. pizz.

II
Vlns. pizz. 4

Vla. (Vln. III)
pizz. 4

Cello
arco
V

Str. Bass
arco
V -4 -1

29 30 31 32

35 arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

f

f

33 34 35 36

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

4

37 38 39 40 41

45

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

42 43 44 45 46

simile

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

47 48 49 50

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

51 52 53 54

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

rit.

57 Maestoso ♩ = 60

ff

55 56 57 58

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

59 60 61 62

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 59 through 62. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The notation includes various note values and rests. In measure 60, the String Bass part has a '-2' below it. In measure 61, it has a '-4' below it. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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

63 64 65 66

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 63 through 66. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The notation includes various note values and rests. In measure 63, the Violin I part has a '4' above it. In measure 64, the Viola part has a '4' above it. In measure 65, the Violin I part has a '0' above it. In measure 66, the Violin I part has a '4' above it. A box containing the number '65' is positioned above the Violin I staff in measure 65. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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

67 68 69 70

This block contains the musical score for measures 67 through 70. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. Measures 67 and 68 show a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 69 includes a triplet of eighth notes in the Cello and Bass parts. Measure 70 concludes with a quarter rest in the Violin I part and a quarter note in the other parts.

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

71 72 73 74

rit.

This block contains the musical score for measures 71 through 74. It features the same five staves as the previous block. Measures 71 and 72 continue the eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 73 begins with a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking and features a quarter rest in the Violin I part. Measure 74 concludes with a whole note in the Violin I part and a half note in the other parts.