

POLKA

From the opera **THE BARTERED BRIDE**

BEDŘICH SMETANA

Arranged by **CARRIE LANE GRUSELLE**

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 5 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass
- 1 Piano (opt.)

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THE ARRANGER

Carrie Lane Gruselle coaches chamber music for young musicians at the Lawrence Community Music School in Appleton, Wisconsin. She is a past president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American String Teachers Association and retired lead teacher for the Lawrence University String Project, a teacher training program for college students. She is co-author of the method series *Measures of Success® for Strings* as well as *Superior Strings in Sixteen Weeks*. Her arrangements and compositions are studied and performed regularly worldwide.

Carrie is retired from teaching strings for the Appleton Area School District. She previously taught with Northeast Wisconsin Talent Education, a Suzuki emphasis school in Green Bay. Her performing experience includes the Green Bay Symphony and the Fox Valley Symphony.

She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from UW-Eau Claire and a Masters of Music Education with Suzuki Emphasis from UW-Stevens Point.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

Bedřich Smetana was a 19th century Bohemian (Czech) composer known for his regional or “nationalist” compositions, particularly symphonic poems and operas. His well-known piece *The Moldau* is among his important works, as well as his opera *The Bartered Bride*.

Smetana’s opera tells a story of how pushy parents plot to pick a husband for their daughter. Fortunately, “true love” triumphs in the end.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The polka is a traditional dance of Bohemia (currently the Czech Republic) but has been popularized throughout Europe and the U.S. Although polkas are generally set in 2/4 meter, this arrangement is in 4/4 for less experienced musicians. Beats 1 and 3 should be stressed, and if possible, work toward being able to conduct the work in cut time. The technical focus of this arrangement includes various bow strokes and styles.

As this piece implies a dance, I suggest that students incorporate this image into their approach to playing. First, to perform cheerfully and rhythmically, students can consider their bows as the dancers. The bow will do its dance with several different steps for diverse choreography: staccato as marked, marcato (quarter notes), legato (slurs and half notes), acrobatics (retakes or bow lifts) and interruptions (pizzicato).

Note that the piece begins with two beats of rest. When conducting, you may use these as your preparatory beats.

—Carrie Lane Gruselle

DURATION: 1:40

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From the opera THE BARTERED BRIDE

BEDŘICH SMETANA
Arranged by
CARRIE LANE GRUELLE
(ASCAP)

Lively (♩ = 152+)

The musical score is arranged for a string quartet and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola (Violin 3), Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The second system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Lively' with a quarter note equal to 152+ beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'f' (forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and fingerings. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score. A box with the number '8' is located between the two systems.



Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

21 22 23 24 25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

26 27 28 29 30 31

34

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

32 33 34 35 36 37

pizz. *arco v*

p *mf*

pizz. *arco v*

p *mf*

pizz. *arco v*

p *mf*

p *mf*

p *mf*

38

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

38 39 40 41 42 43

pizz. *mf*

pizz. *mf*

mf

mf

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

56 57 58 59 60 61

62

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

62 63 64 65 66

pizz. p p p p p

arco ff arco ff arco ff arco ff

non div.