

LAKOTA COURTING SONG

TRADITIONAL LAKOTA MELODY

ARRANGED BY DEVON MORALES

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
3 Violin 3
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass
1 Piano
(for rehearsal)

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About the Arranger

Devon Morales grew up in southern Ohio. She is a graduate of VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, where she was named Valedictorian of her undergraduate class. Devon is the lead Orchestra Director and Music Department Chairperson at Lane Tech College Prep High School, a selective enrollment high school in the Chicago Public School District, where she has worked since 2012. Devon is the first woman to serve as either Orchestra Director or Department Chair at this historic school, which boasts the largest music department and orchestra program in the city of Chicago and one of the oldest music programs in the state. Devon lives in Chicago with her husband, fellow orchestra director and composer Di3n Morales, and their daughter.

Program Notes

This orchestra arrangement is an adaptation of a traditional Native American flute melody from the Lakota People, a First Nations tribe of the Great Sioux Nation. Lakota Courting Song is an example of one of the innumerable flute melodies that originated from the Lakota love song tradition. Courting songs are profoundly personal in nature and are customarily composed aurally by a person who is playing to win another's love. Once their love has been won, legend says that the musician should only play the flute for their partner, so they don't attract the love of someone else by accident!

The Legend of the First Flute says that once, long ago, a man was in love with a woman who continually ignored his attempts to impress her. Dejected, he went to sit under a cedar tree. A woodpecker in the tree was pecking at a branch - which soon broke off and hit the man in the head! When he picked up the small branch, he noticed that the woodpecker had made holes in it - and when he blew air through the branch, it made beautiful, haunting music. His song inspired love in the heart of the woman, who was standing nearby. With his new gift from the woodpecker, the man was able to win the woman's affections, and they lived a long and happy life together.

It is my hope that this piece will help to bring a greater sense of awareness and respect for the cultural and musical traditions of the Lakota People and all Native American cultures. Students are encouraged to research the music traditions of the Lakota Peoples for themselves. All orchestra directors are urged to approach this piece with care and cultural sensitivity.

Performance Notes

This piece has been arranged from the original flute melody for use in an orchestra classroom setting to allow this music to become more easily accessible to a wider range of students. The lyric melodic line, representing the flute, is passed around the orchestra so that everyone has a chance to play it. The song uses a D pentatonic scale. The pentatonic scale, while not exact, most closely represents the note pattern of the traditional Native American flute. The melody is contrasted with pizzicato lines in all parts. Drums are not traditionally found in Lakota love songs and should not be added to this piece. While drums are vital instruments in much of the First Nations and Sioux music, drums have very often been misrepresented in movies and media, and this misuse creates harmful stereotypes.

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Traditional Lakota Melody
Arranged by Devon Morales

Moderato semplice ♩ = 85

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano
(for rehearsal)

6

9

6

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50255181

12

12

17

pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf
pizz.
mf

17

17

22 25

p

22

27

27

33

32

arco *f*

arco *f*

arco *f*

arco *f*

arco *f*

32

f

36

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

36

ff

ff

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More Music for String Orchestra

FULL ENSEMBLE WORKS

BLACKWOOD, MICHAEL

50250129 Rogue's Revenge (Grade 1.5)

An E minor driving rock beat and two sets of parts will allow you to combine absolute beginners and second year students with great success. The easier parts are all high 2s, simple rhythms, and use limited range. Advanced parts use 4th fingers, high and low 2s, and have some longer note values for developing counting skills. Adding a drumset helps keep the ensemble together.

CHAMINADE, CECILE

Levin, Andrew

50250143 Danse Creole (Grade 4)

This charming dance features translucent harmony as only Chaminade can write. There are dramatic moments of rubato that will force your group to grow musically. There is a need for some skill in bowing and a good deal of chromaticism along with some extended range.

GRAINGER, PERCY ALDRIDGE

Longfield, Robert

50250068 Three Movements from Lincolnshire Posy (Grade 3)

Long a staple of wind band literature, Lincolnshire Posy has never been set for any other medium. Robert Longfield has crafted this stunning arrangement for strings that has all of the Grainger style and spirit.

GRIESINGER, KATHRYN

50250105 Popcorn (Grade 1)

No bows required! This unison pizzicato piece for beginning strings and piano is perfect for the very first concert. Using only quarter rests and quarter notes of the D major scale, the upbeat tune gives students the chance to "pop" up out of their chairs in the middle section of the work. A delightful treat for young musicians and audiences alike!

KOLLER, INGRID

50250144 Adeste Fiddles (Grade 1.5)

A traditional carol with a distinctly non-traditional approach! Some old-time fiddling figures combine with the carol in a comfortable key of D major. Easy parts for violin, viola, and violoncello allow students who haven't advanced to extensions perform with success.

PACHELBEL, JOHANN

Svendsen, Johan Severin

52250498 First Finger Pachelbel (Grade 1)

REZNICOW, JOSHUA

52250538 American Sketches (Grade 4)

52250372 Eclipse (Grade 2)

50250133 Phantom's Night: Legends Of Cuba Road (Grade 2.5)

Perfect for your Halloween concert, this spooky piece in G minor has a good bit of divisi in the violins. There are two cello parts, one that shifts and one that does not. Special effects such as glissandi and tremolo abound, including heavy accents and easy double stops. Basses use half position extensively and there are many chromatic notes in all sections -- plus a cello solo!

ROSENHAUS, STEVEN

50250137 Tangled Tango (Grade 2)

Don't get your fingers tangled in the chromatic fingerings! Alternating arco and pizzicato makes things even more interesting (plus some hooked bowings for the fun of it). Everyone gets the melody, with the exception of the basses, who are kept occupied laying down the tango groove.

SAINT SAENS, CAMILLE

Hall, Percy

50250003 Danse Macabre (Grade 3)

There are very few cuts made in this eerie, phantasmal tour de force. At least two solo violinists are needed because of unusual tuning. Be ready for a frightened audience!

SANZ, GASPAR

Longfield, Robert

50250109 Canarios (Grade 2.5)

The guitar music of Gaspar Sanz retains its popularity to this day. This particular excerpt crackles with rhythmic vitality and a fascinating use of hemiola.

SEITZ, PAUL

52250362 Iowa Spring (Grade 2)

SHARP, THOM

50250080 Fiddle Faddle Hoedown (Grade 1)

Your first year players will fiddle their hearts out with this foot-stomper from Thom Sharp.

SMETANA, BEDRICH

Walters, Harold L.

50250071 The Moldau (Grade 3)

Smetana's epic My Country was exceeded in popularity only by his opera The Bartered Bride. The second of the six symphonic poems in the work describes the course of the Moldau River from its beginnings as two springs to its ends as a majestic and mighty river.

SVENDSEN, R. ANNE

52250338 Arpeggio Antics (Grade 1.5)

52250346 First Finger Suite (Grade 1)

50250087 Tango Por Uno (Grade 2.5)

An open string/first finger masterpiece, this work focuses on the tango rhythm and stretching that low first finger. Harmonically, there is some lovely, shocking dissonance -- just like a real tango!

TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER

Longfield, Robert

50250013 Nutcracker: Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy (Grade 2)

Every holiday concert needs music from Tchaikovsky's immortal ballet, The Nutcracker. Robert Longfield's masterful transcription brings Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy into the range of grade 2 string orchestras. The celesta part has been made more 'user friendly,' having been scored for piano but can be played on celesta if one is available. The March and Waltz of the Flowers have also been adapted for use by your string orchestra.

50250014 Waltz of the Flowers (Grade 2)

As with the other Longfield arrangements from The Nutcracker, the piano adds much support to the string orchestra. The beloved Tchaikovsky melody will allow your group to 'sing' with their best tones. The March and Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy are published separately. A classic you'll come back to time and again.

VIVALDI, ANTONIO

Frackenpohl, Steven

10250063 Allegro in D for Strings (Grade 3)

One of Ludwig's all-time best sellers, teachers and students love this work.

WOODRUFF, BUD

50250145 Cedar Hollow (Grade 1.5)

Cedar Hollow is a small valley in the Ozarks. This work captures the essence and tranquility of the area. The optional harp part will enhance the ensemble wonderfully if used, while skillful writing makes the work playable with no shifting.

SOLO STRINGS WITH ENSEMBLE

HEWSON, DAVID G.

Latham, Lynne

54260001 Baroque Fantastique (Grade 3)

An intense, 16th-note driven homage to the baroque with a thrilling solo cello part which ventures into thumb position. Reminiscent of Palladio from the diamond commercial. Orchestra grade 3; solo grade 4½.

MCMICHAEL, CATHERINE

50260005 Esperance (Hope) (Grade 3)

Esperance (Hope) ventures into the realm of French impressionism, with luscious, thick harmonies and colorful orchestration for strings and harp. An easy grade 3 for strings, it allows your harp soloist to shine through.

MIXED INSTRUMENT(S)/ VOICE(S) WITH ENSEMBLE

SHARP, THOM

50250098 Kitchen Poltergeist (Grade 2)

You can add percussionists to your orchestra. Just give them a couple wooden spoons and step back! That's because anyone can play kitchen utensils in this spooky, imaginative offering from Thom Sharp.

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