

Queen's Quest

Michael Blackwood

for
STRING ORCHESTRA

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Violoncello
5 Double Bass

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PUBLICATIONS

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About the Composer

Michael Blackwood is a native of the St. Louis area and has taught strings and music in public and private schools there for the past 23 years, holding a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Music in Composition from Webster University. Outside of daily teaching, he has had the good fortune to direct several honors groups throughout his career. He enjoys spending time with his two wonderful children and participating in local theater productions (in the pit orchestra or even on stage, occasionally).

Program Notes

Queen's Quest depicts an intense chase through the kingdom as our titular queen seeks to help her citizens in times of trouble! Your students will love playing the intense staccato rhythms and the powerful E Dorian mode on the D and A strings. Your basses will get some practice solidifying their shifting skills to 3rd position, along with your cellos getting to stretch their legato melody skills. If your students want to play something fast, this is a great choice for your beginners. Let them shine and join the **Queen's Quest**!

Editor's Notes

Orchestral bowings and fingerings can be highly subjective and personal. The choices a string editor makes are designed to be pedagogically appropriate for specific grade levels while facilitating student musicality and honoring composer intent. The editorial additions in the following composition will provide guidance “right out of the box” for the non-string player and suggest some options for the advanced string specialist. Enjoy!

J. Cameron Law, String Editor

Michael Blackwood

Vivace ♩ = 120+

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17

15

mp legato

mp legato

mp legato

f legato

f legato

20

mf

mf

3rd pos.

25

f

f

f

f

f

sim.

sim.

33

31

3

f

4 1

35

4 1 4 1 4 0

2nd pos.

41

40

p

f

4 2 0 1

Selected String Orchestra Publications

ENSEMBLE WORKS

ADAMS, DAN

50250069 **Revenge of the Dust Bunnies for String Orchestra (Grade 1)**

Just when you thought it was safe to look under the bed, the dust bunnies have returned for their ultimate revenge! Some added percussion and an optional piano make this a real treat for your orchestra, and a vacuum cleaner or two will bring down the house.

ADLER, SAMUEL

10250014 **A Little Bit of Space Time (Grade 1)**

A contemporary American work for medium-easy strings. Recorded by Michigan State University Orchestra on the CD, Teaching Music Through Performance in Orchestra Volume 1 Pepper #5973728.

FROST, ROBERT S.

52250531 **Ballad of the Silver Spur (Grade 1)**

Take your beginning orchestra on a tour of the old west with this ballad in 3/4 time. A simple D major melody is passed between sections, with nothing more rhythmically complex than quarter notes. The violin 1 part requires a low 2 on the E string.

50250085 **Woodland Park (Grade 1)**

The technical skills are well within the demands of first year players in this sophisticated overture for string orchestra. Students can concentrate on ensemble skills and beauty of tone and will be aided by the independent piano accompaniment.

GAMBA, SETH

50250100 **Rock On! (Grade 1)**

Drum set is featured with your orchestra in this e minor modal rock tune. Quarter and eighth notes are the rhythmic foundation with plenty of rests to make counting interesting.

GRIESINGER, KATHRYN

50250127 **Jingle Joy (Grade 1)**

Beginners will be able to play a melody at your holiday concert by using this wonderful medley of How Great Our Joy, Joy to the World, and Jingle Bells. The key is D major and no rhythms other than quarter and half notes. Violin 1 stands alone, Violin 2 and Viola mostly double, as do Violoncello and Double Bass. Simple, yet effective, the arrangement has a piano accompaniment to help solidify the rhythm.

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!

GUTHRIE, WOODY

Epple, Ethan

50250197 **This Land is Your Land (easy version) for Strings and Piano (Grade 1)**

Audiences will tap their toes and sing along to This Land Is Your Land by Woody Guthrie as Ethan Epple's Level 1 arrangement conceptually covers: staccato, pizzicato, detache, syncopation and a key change moving seamlessly from D Major to A Major without missing a beat. This arrangement must be in your library for Veterans Day, Flag Day, the 4th of July, or just because joyful Americana rounds out your next concert.

HINDS, DAVID

52250208 **Incantations (Grade 1)**

Written in modal E minor with a Hebraic-sounding theme, this is a great piece for reinforcing fundamentals, such as counting, legato bowing, pizzicato, two-note slurs, and low 2s. Thematic material is passed around to all sections, ensuring a fulfilling learning experience for everyone.

KOLLER, INGRID

50250180 **Hello Cellos (Grade 1)**

Not surprisingly, this piece in D Major highlights the cello section. Young cellists will love having the melody and several brief solos. Though the focus is on the cellos, every section has plenty to do. Shifting in bass part is marked clearly. Its repetitive rhythms and finger patterns make this an easy piece to teach in a group setting. Optional piano and 3rd violin parts are included.

50250193 **Shake, Shake, Shake (Grade 1)**

This delightful level one string orchestra piece will keep everyone on their toes! Every section gets a turn to play the simple D Major melody, and everyone gets a chance to be part of the rhythm section when it is their turn to play the shaker. This piece reinforces listening skills and ensemble playing but more importantly, it is just plain fun!

KRUG, JASON W.

50250075 **Simple Hoedown (Grade 1)**

This upbeat piece has it all: an energetic key (G major), simple syncopation, a variety of bow strokes to work on, melodic interest in all parts, and even a passage where you may allow violin 2 and viola to lay their instruments in their laps and strum li

NEIDHOLD, CARYN WIEGAND

50250188 **Island of Stars (Grade 1)**

Island of Stars is a wonderful early ensemble experience for your young orchestra. Written in two and three parts, the students feel supported yet part of an orchestra experience. The middle section uses pizzicato with enough time for your students to switch from arco and back again. In the mode of E dorian, your students will feel transported to a mystical island under a blanket of stars.

PACHELBEL, JOHANN

Svendsen, R. Anne

52250498 **First-Finger Pachelbel (Grade 1)**

Like Pachelbel's original, this open-string and first-finger masterpiece written in D major builds in intensity and rhythmic interest throughout. All four strings are used, and technique is very elementary with no slurs and nothing more rhythmically complex than quarters and eighths. Violas are responsible for supplying C sharps with low ones on the C string (prominently marked in their part).

SANCHO, IGNATIUS

Morales, Dion

50250190 **Les Matadors (Grade 1)**

Les Matadors represents an English country dance from Ignatius Sancho's Minuets Cotillons & Country Dances for the Violin, Mandolin, German Flute, & Harpsichord, originally published in 1775. Sancho's original Les Matadors piece is accompanied only by a second instrument in quarter and half notes. Dion Morales arranged Les Matadors employing two-part writing in D major for string orchestra, exploring interesting dynamics, and conversations between groups of two instruments. Accents and skips hold the students' attention as they learn 2/4 time. Students' imaginations will create a Matador, in his colorful and grand traje de luces or "suit of lights," posturing with the bull in the arena.

SHARP, THOM

52250912 **Bees Are Boppin' (Grade 1)**

This is a great way to introduce your strings to Jazz! This easy-to-play selection inspired by the "Be-Bop" style uses short swing-eighth note patterns over a walking bass line, and sounds good at various tempos. This is really fun way to approach the national standards calling for jazz education!

50250080 **Fiddle Faddle Hoedown (Grade 1)**

Your first-years will fiddle their hearts out during this foot-stomper. This selection focuses on repeated 16th note patterns at a quick tempo, building confidence through lots of unison playing. Get out your cowboy boots and hat - get ready for a hoedown!

52250490 **Mambo Amable (Grade 1)**

Mambos just don't get any friendlier than this. Every section in the orchestra is featured, with lots of fun imitation between upper and lower strings. All parts are in first position, with only one low 2 in the violin 1 part. A nice tutti pizzicato section adds additional challenge to a very simple rhythmic theme. Optional percussion parts make this mambo "muy bien!"

50250089 **Un Dedito for String Orchestra and Latin Percussion (Grade 1)**

This delightful Latin-flavored work has percussion parts that are easily played by anyone in the orchestra. The strings use only open strings and one finger, while everyone gets a chance at the melody.

SVENDSEN, R. ANNE

52250346 **First Finger Suite (Grade 1)**

This work requires only open strings and first finger only! (The bass will need 2nd finger briefly in the last movement.) The three movements are: Rain Dribs; Little Japanese Girl and Autumn Rhumba. There's also a very handy set of preparatory exercises and warmups to help your students.

Selected String Orchestra Publications

ENSEMBLE WORKS

ATWELL, SHIRL JAE

52250218 Barocca (Grade 2)

In E minor, this lively piece mirrors Baroque period rhythms and textures. First violins will go to 3rd position, and basses are featured in the B section with a walking pizzicato bassline.

BEETHOVEN, LUDWIG VAN

Fraction, Tai

50250169 Symphony No. 7, Mvt. 2 (Grade 2)

This arrangement, in the key of D minor, is a great opportunity to reinforce high and low 2s, hooked bowings and keeping a steady tempo. All parts are quite equal in importance and the cuts taken are seamless. The cello part contains minimal 2nd position to cover open strings. Other sections will use extensions, both forward and back.

BOBROWITZ, DAVID

50250191 Puppet Theater for Strings and Piano (Grade 2)

Puppet theater has a long and varied history with evidence that it even existed in ancient China. Puppet shows still exist today, and it can be said that the tremendous popularity of the Muppets of Sesame Street is a direct derivative. Musically the piece is an entertaining tribute to the skilled artists who made the puppets come to life for children of all ages. As typical of any Bobrowitz piece, there is important material for all. Each part, whether playing pizzicato or arco, gets its turn at playing melodic material, which will motivate students to want to play this piece often. Lively, and somewhat whimsical in nature, it's fun to listen to, and fun to play!

BUETTNER, ALLISON

50250164 Slip and Slide (Grade 2)

Teachers will find this a fun and easy way to teach glissandi to your young players and prepare them for shifting. Pitch bends are also used, to mimic techniques in bluegrass fiddling. There is no worry if players don't quite make the pitch at the end of the slides, as that pitch is considered approximate. Brief double-stop and pizzicato passages give the piece color and variety.

GAMBA, SETH

50250166 Groundhog's Revenge (Grade 2)

Get ready for a bluegrass battle! You thought you got rid of that pesky groundhog, but he's back and tearin' things up again. It's upper strings against lower strings as everyone gets a turn playing fun and exciting themes. Using the G pentatonic scale, parts are easily approachable for all instruments. Use the included theme sheets to learn the more challenging parts as unison exercises to keep everyone involved and maximize instructional time. Even though all of the included themes don't show up in every part, when students know each other's parts they listen to each other better come together as a tighter group in the end. For some added flair directors can add some finger slides and talk about accent patterns for an authentic bluegrass style.

50250196 Lost City, The (Grade 2)

The Lost City will inspire your students to create a musical story about a lost city from long, long ago. The Lost City is very proud and grand, with sweeping landscapes and a strong sense of an older time. Imaginations will be engaged as the students perform a wonderful, musical story. The piece explores a natural minor without accidentals, creating the feel of E Dorian Mode. Two-part writing allows all instruments to play melody and harmony. Some independent movement and harmony are present, creating depth and passing tones in the music. The flavor of the The Lost City results from accents, slurs, and hooked bows, bringing this composition by Seth Gamba to life for your string orchestra.

50250136 Storm Surge (Grade 2)

As energetic and exhilarating as a fast-moving storm, Storm Surge catapults your orchestra to the foreground. You'll want to review hooked bowings, some chromatic fingerings and extensions, and some dotted quarter note rhythms, but all in all the work is the ideal grade 2 fire-breathing opener or closer.

GONZAGA, FRANCISCA CHIQUINHA

Morales, Dion

50250184 A Sertaneja (Grade 2)

A Sertaneja: "To Her, from the Hinterlands," originally composed for voice and piano, musically paints a picture about Chiquinha's love of "the hinterland- the land behind the body of water" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Through flowing slurs, dotted rhythms, 3/4 time in D minor, and the passing of melody between the strings at a Level 2, Dion Morales' arrangement celebrates the lapping waters around Rio de Janeiro and a graceful dance from Brazilian culture by one of its beloved composers. Students will love playing A Sertaneja.

GOUNOD, CHARLES

Longfield, Robert

50250130 Ave Verum (Grade 2)

Originally for SATB chorus and piano, Ave Verum has been reworked for string orchestra. It is mature and beautiful music. In G major, it requires the upper strings to mix high and low 2s with the use of the 4th finger. All sections use half, 2nd, and 3rd position.

REZNICOW, JOSHUA

52250372 Eclipse (Grade 2)

This exciting work does wonders with the full spectrum of sounds available to string orchestra; spiccato, col legno (with the stick), harmonics, tremolo, and more. These effects serve the musical idea, which is an exciting minor mode theme reminiscent of a movie soundtrack. This is one piece your orchestra will ask to play again and again!

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.

SEITZ, PAUL

52250362 Iowa Spring (Grade 2)

If Copland had written for easy level strings, it would have been something like this. There's a wide open sound here, thanks to the rich writing that includes open strings, open fifths, simple harmonics and just the right amount of silence. Very nicely done!

SHARP, THOM

50250214 Gentle Waltz (Grade 2)

Gentle Waltz by Thom Sharp is a grade 2 string orchestra work in C major. There is lots of independence between sections and a fair amount of chromatics, as well as some divisi in the second violins. Some sections have pizzicato work, and the second violins have a couple of short sections of louree' bowing. There is some wide arpeggiated work for the cellos that may require extra attention and, of course, smooth flowing legato phrasing is a must.

52250486 Shadows In The House (Grade 2)

This fast swing piece in G minor is playfully sneaky! With a catchy, singable tune, this work features a tutti pizzicato section, as well as some melodic moments for bass and cello. All parts remain in first position, with a couple of "funky" accidentals thrown in for fun. The swing-eighth feel keeps the mood appropriately shadowy!

50250195 Summer Daze (Grade 2)

Through colorful harmonies, beautiful full bow sound, and creative fingerings, students will dream about their own "Summer Daze." The intricate harmonies crafted by Thom Sharp will invite students to tune and listen to the harmonic changes in cut time found in this Level 2 string orchestra piece.

TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER ILYITCH

Latham, Lynne

50250150 Sleeping Beauty Waltz (Grade 2)

Presented here in the original key of B flat, the waltz has the melody divided among violoncello, viola, and violin 2. For the dramatic ending, violin 1 ventures stepwise into third position for the final statement of the melody. Teaching hemiola is an absolute must, and all parts have hooked bowings that require some attention.

TCHAIKOVSKY, PETER ILYITCH

Longfield, Robert

50250012 Nutcracker March (Grade 2)

This long awaited arrangement of the March from The Nutcracker fills the void of classic orchestral literature for string orchestra at the grade 2 level. This adaptation, along with Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Waltz of the Flowers (published separately), will be sure to find a place on your holiday program year after year.

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.

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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