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FJH STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 3.5

A MINOR CASE OF THE BIRTHDAY BLUES

Lauren Bernofsky

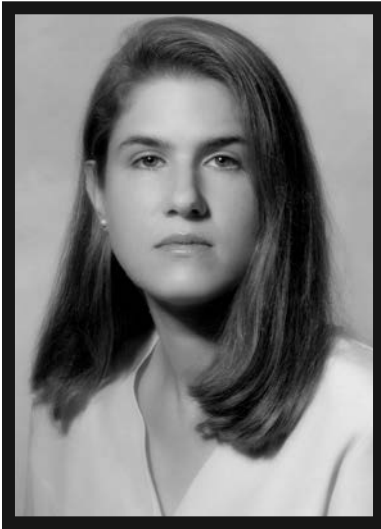
Instrumentation

1 - Conductor's Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Violoncello
5 - Double Bass
1 - Percussion
Claves
Maracas

T H E
F · J · H
M U S I C
C O M P A N Y
I N C.

Frank J. Hackinson

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The Composer

Hailed by Lukas Foss as “a master composer,” **Lauren Bernofsky** has written over eighty works, including solo, chamber, and choral music, as well as larger-scale works for orchestra, film, and ballet. With performances spanning the world, her music has been described as “fantastic,” “delightful,” “evocative and witty,” “brilliant,” and destined to “become standard repertoire.”

She holds a master’s degree in composition from the New England Conservatory and a doctorate in composition from Boston University, and she has taught as a professor at the Peabody Institute.

Bernofsky has received numerous grants from institutions including The National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, The American Music Center, and The American Composers Forum. She has been honored with a Longfellow Chorus Award of Distinction and an Excellence in Composition Award from the Brass Chamber Music Forum. Her compositions have been commissioned by The Del Mar Trio, The Holyoke Civic Symphony, The Litchfield County Children's Choir, The South Shore Conservatory, Sinfonia Calcania of Boston, and The Harford Ballet.

About the Music

What do you get for someone who doesn't like having a birthday? Jeff Thomas, the father of one of my violin students, suggested a piece of music! He commissioned me to write a musical birthday tribute that my students could play at our upcoming Musicale, to be dedicated to his wife Connie, whose birthday happened to be the day of the Musicale. In this piece, I start out with a version of the traditional birthday song in a minor key, adding sad-sounding effects such as the descending scale and “agonizing” suspensions (for extra flavor.)

The piece builds in emotional duress until it suddenly slams into a new, major section, through what is certainly the weirdest modulation I have ever written. Now we hear the birthday tune with a new twist, a sort of Calypso treatment (and don't forget the claves and maracas!) I added a pompous (and deliberately too-long) coda, and the piece mercifully comes to a close on “and many more....”

Preparing this piece for performance, I found an easy shortcut to teaching the triplet rhythms. Instead of explaining the mathematical ratios behind them (which is of limited interest to, say, a ten-year-old), I instead sang the triplets on the word “bicycle.” For instance, in the passage starting at the pick-up to m. 85, I had my students say, “ride a bicycle, bicycle, bicycle, bicycle, bike.” It worked like a charm!

String Editing: Carrie Lane Gruselle

A MINOR CASE OF THE BIRTHDAY BLUES

LAUREN BERNOFSKY
(BMI)

Quasi Schleppando (♩ = 80)

Violin 1
mp

Violin 2
mp

Violin 3
(Viola T.C.)
mp

Viola
mp
pizz.

Violoncello
mp
pizz.

Double Bass
mp

Percussion
(Claves, Maracas)

2 3 4 5

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Perc.

6 7 8 9 10

arco

arco

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ST6251

Sheet music for measures 11 through 15, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vel., D.B., and Perc.

Measures 11-15 show a melodic line in Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, with Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) and Vla. providing harmonic support. The Vel. and D.B. parts feature a rhythmic pattern. Percussion is indicated by a single note in measure 11.

Measures 11 12 13 14 15

Sheet music for measures 16 through 20, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vel., D.B., and Perc.

Measures 16-20 show a more complex melodic line in Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, with Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) and Vla. providing harmonic support. The Vel. and D.B. parts feature a rhythmic pattern. Percussion is indicated by a single note in measure 16.

Measures 16 17 18 19 20

Sheet music for measures 21 to 25, featuring Violins 1, 2, and 3 (Vla. T.C.), Viola, Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Percussion (Perc.).

Measures 21-25 show a melodic line in Vln. 1, with Vln. 2 and Vln. 3 providing harmonic support. The Viola and Vcl. parts feature eighth-note patterns, while the D.B. part includes a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking and a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The Percussion part is marked with rests.

Measures 21 22 23 24 25

Sheet music for measures 26 to 30, featuring Violins 1, 2, and 3 (Vla. T.C.), Viola, Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Percussion (Perc.).

Measures 26-30 continue the melodic development in Vln. 1, with Vln. 2 and Vln. 3 providing harmonic support. The Viola and Vcl. parts feature eighth-note patterns, while the D.B. part includes a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The Percussion part is marked with rests.

Measures 26 27 28 29 30

Score for measures 31-35. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Perc.

Measures 31-35 show the following dynamics and markings:

- Vln. 1: *cresc.*
- Vln. 2: *cresc.*
- Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.): *mp cresc.*
- Vla.: *mp cresc.*
- Vcl.: *mp cresc.*
- D.B.: *mp cresc.*
- Perc.: *mp cresc.*

Measures 31-35 are marked with measure numbers 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35.

Score for measures 36-40. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Perc.

Measures 36-40 show the following dynamics and markings:

- Vln. 1: *mf*
- Vln. 2: *mf*
- Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.): *mf*
- Vla.: *mf*
- Vcl.: *mp* *arco*
- D.B.: *mp*
- Perc.: *mp*

Measures 36-40 are marked with measure numbers 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40.

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vel.

D.B.

Perc.

cresc.

mf cresc.

f

f

f

f

f

41 42 43 44 45

49 **Spiritoso** (♩ = 160)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vel.

D.B.

Perc.

mf

mf

mf

mf

f

f

mf

mf

f

f

mf

mf

mf

Claves

Maracas

46 47 48 50

Score for measures 51-55, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Perc.

Measures 51-55 show a rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The percussion part features a consistent eighth-note pattern. The string parts (Vln. 1, 2, 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The woodwinds (Vln. 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

Measures 51-55 show a rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The percussion part features a consistent eighth-note pattern. The string parts (Vln. 1, 2, 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The woodwinds (Vln. 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

Score for measures 56-60, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.), Vla., Vcl., D.B., and Perc.

Measures 56-60 show a rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The percussion part features a consistent eighth-note pattern. The string parts (Vln. 1, 2, 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The woodwinds (Vln. 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

Measures 56-60 show a rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The percussion part features a consistent eighth-note pattern. The string parts (Vln. 1, 2, 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The woodwinds (Vln. 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B.) play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

61

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vel. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

Perc.

61 62 63 64 65

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) *p*

Vla. *p*

Vel. *p*

D.B. *p*

Perc.

66 67 68 69 70

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

poco cresc.

71

Vln. 1 *subito p* *poco cresc.* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p poco cresc.* *mp*

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) *p poco cresc.* *mp*

Vla. *p poco cresc.* *mp*

Vel. *subito p* *p poco cresc.* *mp*

D.B. *p poco cresc.* *mp*

Perc.

71 72 73 74 75

79

Vln. 1 *f* *div.*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vln. 3 (Vla. T.C.) *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vel. *mp* *f*

D.B. *mf* *f*

Perc.

76 77 78 79

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