Grade 2½

Music for String Orchestra

A String Showcase

Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Rossini, and Dvořák

Arranged by

Caryn Wiegand Neidhold

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INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Violin III (Viola T.C.) 2
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5
Narration 1

YAS258F

CARL FISCHER®

Arranger's Notes

A String Showcase is a fabulous opportunity for audiences to hear each section of the string orchestra and celebrate the sound the instrument creates. The violins begin with the exciting "Trepak" from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* ballet. The energy is infectious, and audiences can hear the dancers' jumps and twirls with the violin melody. Next, the violas take over with *Hungarian Dance* No. 5 by Johannes Brahms. The violas use their low C-string to belt out this well-known melody. The cellos take over with their chance to play the famous melody from the *William Tell Overture* by Gioachino Rossini. Most famously known as the theme song to the Lone Ranger, the original overture is the opening music to a full-length opera first performed in 1829. Last, the basses take the stage with what might at first sound like Jaws, which is actually the fourth movement of Dvořák's most famous work, the *New World Symphony*. This piece is so well loved that Neil Armstrong took a tape of the symphony to the moon in 1969. Finally, the orchestra revisits "Trepak," rounding out the chance for each section to shine.

The optional narration is available for certain concert situations. Teachers or administration may be invited to read the narration. Optionally, the featured section can stand (cellos can move endpins and basses can rotate to face the audience) so that audiences may match the aural and visual. While it was originally intended for recruiting, it can also be a great feature at a concert, giving families a chance to see and hear their children featured. "Trepak" will sound best if students are playing lower in the bow. A brush or even spiccato stroke will achieve the characteristic sound. In the *Hungarian Dance*, the violas will likely need some help with balance by keeping the other sections quiet enough for those student-size violas to project on the C-string. At mm. 26-33, please ensure violins are truly playing divisi since the lower notes help fill in the chord. The cello feature includes many quick bow retakes. Some students revert to their first-year retake lessons and may make too large a motion to arrive at the next beat in time. The cellos have cues (without fingerings) for the bass feature at m. 54. The upper string chords need to be concise, but not staccato to avoid covering up the basses.

Enjoy learning and performing this piece with your students!

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About the Arranger

Caryn Wiegand Neidhold is a composer and arranger for student through professional ensembles. Her focus includes arranging classical "gems" and composing music for eclectic styles, including fiddle, rock, and jazz. With an emphasis on learning technique through literature, Caryn's music always distributes appropriate musical challenges to all instrument sections.

Caryn's background includes extensive work as a middle school educator, Suzuki teacher, and youth symphony conductor and coach. In addition, she has years of performance experience as a violist and violinist with orchestras, including the Fairbanks Symphony, New World Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, and the Reno Phil. Caryn enjoys writing articles for music education publications and presenting seminars for string educators. With a stint in fifth-grade band on drums, transfer band at Hummingbird Music Camp (flute, bassoon, and trombone), bass clarinet in college, and percussion with the Fairbanks Community Band, Caryn enjoys the inspiration of writing for emerging student bands.

A String Showcase

TCHAIKOVSKY, BRAHMS, ROSSINI, DVOŘÁK
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* Optional narration parts

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✻ **Viola Feature**

17 *Hungarian Dance No. 5:* Brahms





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Music for String Orchestra

Carl Fischer's *Music for String Orchestra* provides teachers with quality repertoire for ensemble grade levels ½ to 4½. The music in each grade has been carefully written and edited, within specific guidelines, so that it will only use the technical demands for that level.

Within each grade level, you will find selections in a variety of styles and genres designed to meet all of your teaching and performance needs. Carl Fischer composers and arrangers are some of the most respected writers in the business. Their music is interesting, fresh and worthy of serious study. It is crafted to bring out the very best sound from students.

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