Christmas Fiddlers On The Housetop

a hoedown-style medley of "Up On The Housetop", "Jingle Bells" and "Good King Wenceslas"

GRADE 1+ • DURATION 2:00

arranged by Frank J. Halferty

Kendor



- 1 Full Score
- 8 1st Violin
- 2nd Violin
- 3rd Violin (Vla. TC) 5 - Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 Bass
- 1 opt. Piano

EXTRA SCORES & PARTS AVAILABLE

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To The Director

Christmas Fiddlers On The Housetop is full of both fundamental and fun passages that will strengthen your students' technique. Although you may be tempted to begin work on this in 4/4, playing the straight-forward rhythms in cuttime will give your players a great chance to become more familiar with this time signature. Have your students clap their parts before playing them to build rhythmic confidence. This is especially true at m. 51 when all three melodies are played simultaneously.

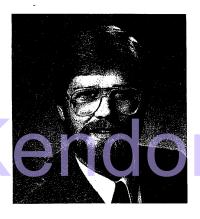
Although there are a few slurs in the violin parts, this piece primarily demands a clean bowing technique. Cut-time eighth notes (unless they are familiar melodic patterns) are kept to repeated pairs except for the groups of four for the 1st Violins at m. 51. Time spent applying these rhythms to scales during warm-ups will reward students with improved skills and a stronger performance.

The fiddle techniques included here will add a lot of pure fun to this piece while giving extra challenge for those students who are ready for it. Double stops will be accessible to more advanced players; other players should probably play the top note first, then attempt the complete double-stop when ready. If your students have trouble with this, feel free to play the double-stop notes divisi. This will allow the hoedown flavor to shine through even if true double-stops are beyond the abilities of your group.

The slides from one pitch to another will not be effective unless the final note is played in tune. Some students may have trouble with these slides while others will catch on quickly. Don't worry -- those that catch on will easily carry the rest.

I hope that you enjoy working on and performing this arrangement. I also hope that, as a teacher, you will find this piece to be a helpful instructional and motivational tool as you work with your students. Good luck!

PROHIBITED



FRANK J. HALFERTY

A graduate of Seattle Pacific University and New Mexico State University, he has extensive experience teaching instrumental and choral music from the elementary to college levels. Frank has also served as contest adjudicator in Texas and Washington, and an array of his originals and arrangements for school musicians are available from several leading educational publishers.

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