

The Composer

Shirl Jae Atwell earned a bachelor of music education from Kansas State Teachers College, a master of music theory/composition degree from the University of Louisville, and completed four years of post-graduate work in composition at the University of South Carolina.

An active composer with many commissions and publications to her credit, Ms. Atwell was named the 1996 winner of the National School Orchestra Association composition contest with her string orchestra piece *Modus a 4*. She is also the 1997 winner of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association composition contest with a string orchestra piece entitled *Driften*. Another project, *Lucy*, with music by Ms. Atwell and choreography by Alun Jones, was premiered by the Louisville Ballet in 1999. Inspired by the discovery of a 3.2 million-year old skeleton, *Lucy* was the subject of a Kentucky Education Television documentary that aired the same year.

In June 2000, the televised production of *Lucy* was awarded the Arts & Culture Emmy by the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. One month later, a Certificate of Merit was awarded to *Lucy* by Unda-USA, the National Catholic Association for program performance. In 2002, the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra of North Carolina recorded the music to the ballet *Lucy* which is available on Albany Records. The CD also includes the orchestral suite *Movements Four South*, and three string orchestra works: *Pulsar*, *Meander*, and *Driften*.

Ms. Atwell serves as a full-time string orchestra educator with the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky. She maintains active membership with ASCAP, Music Educators National Conference, ASTA with NSOA, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, and Kentucky Music Educators Association.

The Composition

The classic Irish harpist and composer, Turlough O'Carolan (1670-1738), used the word "planxty" in many of his works and it is thought to mean a tribute to a particular person, i.e. Planxty Maggie Brown. However, depending on what source one consults, planxty can also be "an Irish or Welsh melody for the harp, sometimes of a mournful character," (Webster's Unabridged Dictionary), or "a harp tune of a sportive or animated character," (Shorter English Oxford Dictionary). Whichever definition one decides to use, this *Planxty* is fun. The lively melody is shared by all and should be played in a light-hearted, carefree manner. Music not only soothes the savage beast but also makes it laugh.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

Planxty

Full Conductor Score
Approx. time – 2:40

Shirl Jae Atwell

1 **Feisty** (♩ = 104-108)

Violins 1
Violins 2
Viola
Cello
String Bass

7
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

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14 15 16 17 18 19

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mf

mf

20 21 22 23 24 25

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

26 27 28 29 30 31

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

32 33 34 35 36 37 38

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

f

f

f

39 40 41 42 43 44 45

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

46 47 48 49 50 51

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

52 53 54 55 56 57

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

f

58 59 60 61 62 63 64

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

65 66 67 68 69 70 71

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

72 73 74 75 76 77 78

1 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

79 80 81 82 83 84 85 V

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

86 87 88 V 89 90 91

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

92 93 94 95 96 97

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

mf

98 99 100 101 102 103

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

104 105 106 107 108 109

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

110 111 112 113 114 115 116

Vlns. 1 V

Vlns. 2 V

Vla. V

Cello 1 4 V

Str. Bass V

117 118 119 120 121 122

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

123 124 125 126 127 128

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

mf

mf

129 130 131 132 133 V 134

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

135 136 137 138 139 140 141

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

SAMPLE

KIDS