Edvard Grieg
Arranged by Jeff Bailey

Gavotte (from Holberg Suite, Op. 40)

Correlated with String Basics, Book 2, page 14
Steps to Successful Literature presents exceptional performance literature - concert and festival pieces - for beginning to intermediate string orchestras. Each piece is correlated with a specific location in String Basics – Steps to Success for String Orchestra Comprehensive Method by Terry Shade, Jeremy Woolstenhulme, and Wendy Barden. Literature reinforces musical skills, concepts, and terms introduced in the method. Sometimes, a few new concepts are included. They are officially e score.

The Arranger
Jeff Bailey is a graduate of Old Dominion University with a bachelor’s degree in music composition and University of Virginia with a master of arts in music. He has been teaching middle school string orchestra since 1999, first in Chesterfield Public Schools in Richmond, VA, and currently in Virginia Beach Public Schools. Jeff’s teaching philosophy includes the integration and education of classical music in his middle school orchestra classrooms and often arranges music to support his curriculum. His arrangements and original works have been performed with much acclaim throughout his home state. In addition, he has composed soundtrack music for instructional videos.

Jeff has been a performing rock and jazz musician for over three decades, both on guitar and bass. He lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia with his wife and three children.

Basics About the Composition
Gavotte (from Holberg Suite Op. 40) can be described as charming, warm, lilting, graceful, and enchanting. Applying such adjectives to the performance of a composition such as this requires rehearsing with textures, ensemble balance, dynamic nuancing, and more. After students have accomplished the nitty gritty of note learning and bow speed/distribution, begin work towards finding an ensemble quality that compares to the adjectives above. If any of your students are beginning to learn vibrato, encourage them to try vibrato on the longer, sustained notes.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

8 – 1st Violin
8 – 2nd Violin
5 – 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
5 – Viola
5 – Cello
5 – String Bass
1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, go to www.kjos.com.
Edvard Grieg
(1843-1907)

Edvard Grieg is celebrated as Norway’s most iconic composer. Born in the city of Bergen on June 15, 1843, he began studying the piano at age six, taught by his mother. Though he was gifted, he found piano practice to be dull and tedious, and reportedly went to great lengths to avoid it. He was also unhappy in school, where he was bullied and felt stifled by the confines of the classroom. Story has it that he would even “forget” his umbrella, or stand under leaky drainpipes, leaving his teachers no choice but to send him on the long walk back home to change his clothes.

When Edvard was 15, a family friend, the famed Norwegian violinist Ole Bull, discovered his talent, and encouraged him to attend the Leipzig Conservatory in Germany. There, the teenager excelled academically and in his studies of piano, violin, and composition. Still, he found the curriculum of the Conservatory “backward, rather than forward-looking.” He wanted to create a new kind of music – modern and innovative, yet still celebrating the essential character of his homeland.

Throughout his career, Grieg composed a variety of songs and instrumental works. Many of his vocal works were inspired by his wife who was a professional singer. He remained an accomplished pianist, performing his own music on tour. His most popular works include his Piano Concerto, the Holberg Suite, and his music for Peer Gynt, a play by Henrik Ibsen, that he later turned into the Peer Gynt Suites.

The Holberg Suite

Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754) was a Danish-Norwegian playwright, author, and philosopher during the Baroque period and the Enlightenment (the Age of Reason). He was born just one year before Johann Sebastian Bach and Georg Frederic Handel. He was known for his comedic plays, as well as for his influential philosophical works.

Grieg was commissioned in 1884 to write a tribute to Holberg for the 200th anniversary celebration of his birth (also in the city of Bergen). For inspiration, Grieg turned to the traditional Baroque dance forms of Holberg’s era, and reinterpreted them in a way that was all his own. The result is a suite of five movements, sometimes referred to as From Holberg’s Time - Suite in the Olden Style:

1. Praeludium (Allegro vivace)
2. Sarabande (Andante)
3. Gavotte (Allegretto)
4. Air (Andante religioso)
5. Rigaudon (Allegro con brio)

Gavotte (from the Holberg Suite, Op. 40)

This movement includes two distinct sections: the gavotte and the musette (measures 42-45 and 58-61). The gavotte originated in France as a peasants’ kissing dance. As it became popular in the courts of France and England, it became more formal, and flowers were exchanged instead of kisses. The tempo is usually moderate, with a feeling of $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{3}{2}$. A musette is a pastoral air in which a drone bass runs throughout.
About Norway

✓ The capital and largest city is Oslo.

✓ The length of Norway is 1,643 miles, however the coastline is so indented that the coastline measures a total of 13,235 miles.

✓ Norway has “midnight sun” and “polar winter,” which means it receives 20 or more hours of daylight during summer, and the opposite during winter.

✓ With its mountainous terrain and large glaciers, Norway is home to a variety of arctic animals, including wolverines, reindeer, polar bears, and the arctic fox.

✓ Norway has about 450,000 lakes and is known for its beautiful fjords.

✓ Oil production has been a dominant factor of Norway’s economic success. Norway is the fifth largest oil exporter in the world.

✓ Education is free, including college.

Bergen, Norway: Edvard Grieg’s birthplace.

This photochrome print was taken c. 1890-1905, towards the end of Grieg’s life.

Northern Europe Map: by San Jose

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Edvard Grieg
Arr. Jeff Bailey

Allegretto \( \frac{\text{d}}{\text{s}} = 128 \text{ –} 136 \)

Full Conductor Score

Approx. performance time—2:40

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass


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Slightly faster \( (\text{q} = 144 - 148) \)