

Kjos String Orchestra  
Grade 3  
Full Conductor Score  
SO386F  
\$7.00

Shirl Jae Atwell

# Playful



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



## The Composer



**Shirl Jae Atwell** earned her Bachelors from Kansas State Teachers College and a Master of Music Theory/Composition degree at the University of Louisville. She also completed four years of post-graduate work in composition at the University of South Carolina.

In 1984, Ms. Atwell won the Clifford Shaw Memorial Award for Kentucky Composers; was commissioned to write *Fear Not, Little Flock* for the 175th anniversary of the Little Flock Baptist Church; and saw the New York City debut of her first opera, *Sagegrass*. In 1991, another of her operas, *Esta Hargis*, was premièred at Emporia State University in Kansas, followed shortly by the 1992 debut of *Handelian*, a work for string orchestra premièred by the Jefferson County All-County Middle School Orchestra. The Southern Baptist Seminary Orchestra in Louisville premièred her *Movements Four South*, an orchestral suite, in 1993. That year also saw the placement of six Shirl Jae Atwell scores in the permanent collection of the Paris Bibliothèque Internationale de Musique Contemporaine at the invitation of the Contemporary Music International Information Service.

Ms. Atwell was named the 1996 winner of the National School Orchestra Association composition contest with her string orchestra piece *Modus à Four*. She is also the 1997 winner of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association contest with a string orchestra piece entitled *Drifen*.

*Lucy*, the ballet, with music by Ms. Atwell and choreography by Alun Jones, was premièred by the Louisville Ballet in January 1999. *Lucy* was inspired by the discovery of a 3.2 million year old skeleton, and was the subject of a Kentucky Education Television documentary that was aired on November 10, 1999. 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; in July, a Certificate of Merit was awarded to *Lucy* by Unda-USA, the National Catholic Association for Communicators; and in January 2001, *Lucy* was awarded 2nd place by the National Education Television Association for program performance. In 2002, The Greensboro Symphony Orchestra of North Carolina recorded the music to the ballet *Lucy*, which is now available on Albany Records. The compact disc also includes the orchestral suite *Movements Four South*, and three string orchestra works, *Pulsar*, *Meander*, and *Drifen*.

Ms. Atwell has been commissioned to write works for the McEachern High School String Orchestra of Powder Springs, Georgia; the Oceanfront String Orchestra of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and a full orchestra piece for the 2007 Kentucky All-State Orchestra. In the fall 2008, Ms. Atwell was commissioned to write a full orchestra work, in honor of Lincoln's Bicentennial, which was premièred by the Louisville Orchestra in February 2009. She has also completed work on her second ballet suite entitled *Evoquer*.

An active composer with many commissions and publications to her credit, Ms. Atwell recently retired from full-time string teaching with the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky. She currently serves on retainer for JCPS as an interim and substitute orchestra teacher, and dedicates all available time composing, conducting, arranging, and presenting. Ms. Atwell maintains active memberships in ASCAP, NAfME, ASTA, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, and the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

### 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.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, please visit [www.kjos.com](http://www.kjos.com).

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## The Composition

What does “Playful” mean to you? “Playful” most certainly includes fun activities, often with friends and family, and brings much joy and many smiles!

Ms. Atwell’s **Playful** is all about childhood games such as Hide & Seek and Tag. What about catching fireflies at dusk with an old mason jar on a warm summer evening! And, just visualize a pair of puppies romping outside after a winter snowfall.

## Rehearsal Suggestions

The heart and soul of **Playful** is found in the rhythmic framework of the composition. There is syncopation throughout all parts plus there are straight eighth note passages which should be played 100% accurately with a steady pulse. Yet, the performance must be pulled off sounding carefree and light-hearted.

To be successful, especially with less experienced players, rehearse at a slow tempo to help students establish rhythmic security. Isolate the syncopation as well at the slower tempo and try playing measures 1-8 on an open string so that the sole focus is on rhythm/counting. Make students aware of the accents on the downbeats of the odd-numbered measures, as the accents will help them feel where beat 1 is. Once the orchestra is rhythmically secure, putting the piece together will begin to be fun and...*playful!*

Once the kinks of the rhythmic challenges are worked out and the music is able to be played from start to finish, make sure the pulse remains buoyant and steady. No rushing or no bogging down allowed. Make sure players keep their bows in the middle and upper portions so to alleviate the heaviness that sometimes occurs when playing too close to the frog. As the polishing of the performance is underway, begin looking for their eyes! If players can watch the baton on and off throughout the piece, there’s a better chance of retaining the original tempo.

SAMPLE

# Playful

Full Conductor Score  
Approx. performance time—2:30

Shirl Jae Atwell (ASCAP)

Carefree (♩ = 116)

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with five staves. The instruments are Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The score is in 2/4 time with a tempo of 116 beats per minute. The first system (measures 1-6) is marked *f*. The second system (measures 7-12) includes a rehearsal mark at measure 9 and is marked *f*. The third system (measures 13-18) is marked *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

19

20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf*

25 26 27 28 29 30

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31 32 33 34 35 36

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

1 37 38 39 40 41 42

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

1 43 44 45 46 47 48

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vlns. 1 *grad. cresc.*

Vlns. 2 *grad. cresc.*

Vla. *grad. cresc.*

Cello *grad. cresc.*

Str. Bass *grad. cresc.*

55 56 57 58 59 60

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Cello *f* *mf*

Str. Bass *f* *mf*

61 62 63 64 65 66

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass

67 68 69 70 71 72

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

73

Vlins. 1 *f*

Vlins. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

74 75 76 77 78 2

79 80 81 82 83 84

Vlins. 1

Vlins. 2

Vla.

Cello 4 1 1 x2 4 1 x2

Str. Bass

87

Vlins. 1 *ff* *grad. decresc.*

Vlins. 2 *ff* *grad. decresc.*

Vla. *ff* *grad. decresc.*

Cello *ff* *grad. decresc.*

Str. Bass *ff* *grad. decresc.*

85 86 88 89 90



91 92 93 94 95 96

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

97 98 99 100 101 102

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

103 104 105 106 107 108

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

1 4 3

109 4 2 1 4 110 1 111 112 113 114

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

115 116 117 118 119 120

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

121 122 123 124 125 126

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

127 128 129 130 131 132

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

133 134 135 136 137

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

138 139 140 141 142

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*ff*

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