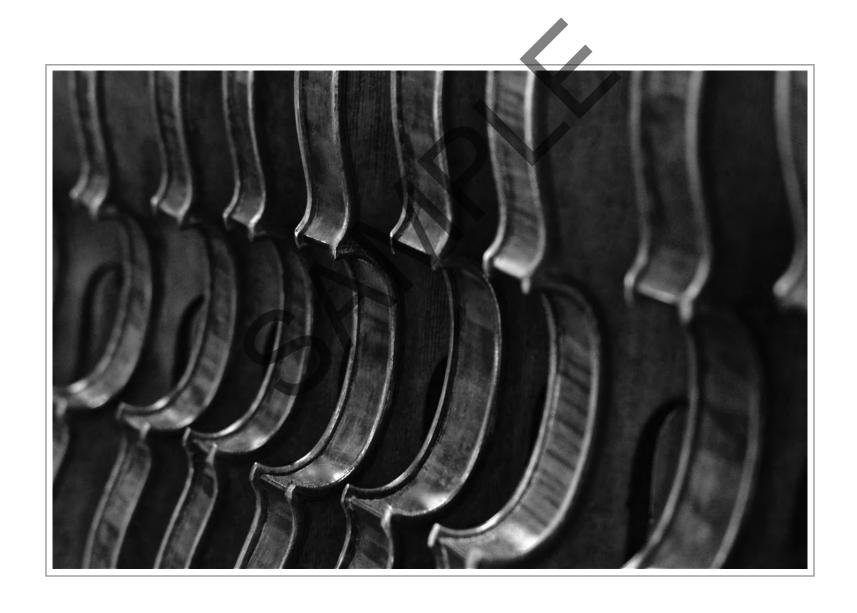
Bud Woodruff

Fiddler's Stroll



About the Composer



Bud Woodruff is an accomplished educator, conductor, composer and arranger. He recently retired from the Deer Park Independent School District (Deerpark, Texas) after a 16-year tenure teaching orchestra (grades 6-12) and serving as head of the orchestra program for 14 years.

Mr. Woodruff graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's and master's degree in music. While there, he studied composition with Michael Horvit, conducting with A. Clyde Roller, and James T. Matthews. After graduating, he performed with the Houston Grand Opera Orchestra for 22 years, and for 16 years, served as the music director and orchestra conductor of the Pasadena, Texas Philharmonic Society. In addition to his many achievements in Deer Park, he has also conducted All-Region Orchestras in Texas and Arkansas.

About the Composition

Fiddler's Stroll was a piece that just came to me one afternoon while improvising on my violin. As I played, I happened onto a happy, light, and breezy composition that quickly fell into place and became an immediate favorite of my students. The piece fits well into many different programs and is a huge hit at fundraising events and other special occasions.

The piano part is optional. If using an electronic keyboard, try a harpsichord stop. It gives a guitar-like sound, but clearer and with more high overtones.

Thank you for trying this piece! I trust you will enjoy performing it as much as I did writing it.

-Bud

Rehearsal Suggestions

Pay special attention to the staccatos. They need to be short and stressed, but never 'hacked' or 'crunched.' The piece has a certain bounce to it, especially if you give a slight stress to the downbeats of the melody. The bounce disappears if the tempo is too fast or too slow, so find that happy medium. Try walking while shifting your weight from foot to foot, in a swaying fashion, like an Englishman with an umbrella on his shoulder, and the perfect tempo should come to you.

Rehearse the solo parts at measure 45 slowly to master the bowings and fingerings. Have the violas and cellos play their passages together to economize rehearsal time and to better focus on group intonation. Other passages in the piece might benefit from this same rehearsal technique.

Take time to rehearse the pizzicato sections for the purpose of keeping a steady and light tempo. The tendency is to rush and once the rushing begins, the flavor of the tune is lost and chaos will likely ensue! Also keep an ear open for the 2 sixteenth note pickups in the melodic material (pick up into m. 5, is one of many spots). These innocent looking pickups can also be initiated too early and can start the dismantling of a rock solid tempo.

The solo sections are intended to be done 'tutti', but can be done as solos, too. Measures 77 to the end should be performed tutti.'

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 Ist Violin
- 8 2nd Violin
- 5 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- I Piano (Optional)
- I Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

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Fiddler's Stroll

Full Conductor Score Bud Woodruff Approx. performance time—2:20 Not too fast (= c. 88)mf Violins Viola Cello String Bass Not too fast (= c. 88)Piano Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass Pno.

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