

Tiptoeing Down the Stairs

Music for Beginning String Orchestra

by David Winkler

INSTRUMENTATION

Violins
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Piano (optional)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

This fun little piece was written for a first-semester beginning middle school orchestra I was working with as a long-term substitute teacher. I had several goals in mind in creating this composition:

1. We needed something fun and easy for the students to play for a holiday concert (the original title was “Tiptoeing Down the Stairs on Christmas Morning”). It could certainly be used for a non-seasonal concert as well.
2. The entire piece is played pizzicato, so there is no bowing involved.
3. The music requires careful attention to the rhythm involved. By having the students whisper “Tip-toe!” during the frequent rests, it helps them to feel the rhythm better, and also helps them not rush the beat. For maximum effect, make sure they whisper the word and don’t speak it. (Note: On the demo mp3, a light percussion sound is used to simulate the whispered “Tip-toe”).
4. In several places, a left-hand string damping technique is required so that the open strings do not ring, e.g., in measures 9 and 25. It should be fairly easy for students to learn this.
5. The piano part is completely optional, and serves as a sort of condensed score.

I hope you and your students will enjoy playing this piece!

— *David Winkler*

**** With the purchase of this music, you are authorized to make copies as needed for your ensemble only.**

Score

Tiptoeing Down the Stairs

Music by
David Winkler

Quietly (♩ = 96)

Violins (1) (2) (3) pizz. *mp* Tip - toe! (whisper) Tip - toe!

Viola (1) (2) (3) pizz. *mp* Tip - toe! (whisper) Tip - toe!

Cello (1) (2) (3) pizz. *mp* Tip - toe! (whisper) Tip - toe!

Double Bass (1) (2) (3) pizz. *mp* Tip - toe! (whisper) Tip - toe!

Piano (optional) *sempre staccato* *mp* (whisper) *simile*

1 2 3 4

Vln. Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

Vla. Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

Vc. Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

D.B. Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

Pno. Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

5 6 7 8 9

Violin (Vln.)

Viola (Vla.)

Violoncello (Vc.)

Double Bass (D.B.)

Piano (Pno.)

10 11 12 13

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Violin (Vln.)

Viola (Vla.)

Violoncello (Vc.)

Double Bass (D.B.)

Piano (Pno.)

14 15 16 17

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Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

18 19 20 21

ILLEGAL TO COPY OR DOWNLOAD

Tip - toe! Tip - toe! Tip - toe!

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

22 23 24 25

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