

RWS BEGINNING STRINGS SERIES

Grade: 1

Conductor Score: RWS-2571-01

I Saw Three Ships

(On Christmas Day)

Traditional English Carol

Arranged by
Brian Bankston

RWS
Beginning Strings Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

I Saw Three Ships

(On Christmas Day)

Traditional English Carol

Arranged by
Brian Bankston

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin 1	8
Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)	8
Viola	6
Cello	5
Double Bass	5
Piano (Optional)	1

PROGRAM NOTE

I Saw Three Ships is a traditional English Christmas carol that first appeared in print in the seventh century. It is unclear what the lyrics are referring to since ships cannot sail into the landlocked town of Bethlehem. The three ships could refer to the Magi (the three wise men), the relics of the Magi, their camels, or the three Marys of the Christmas story. Please enjoy our rendition of this ancient melody.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

If your students are still learning to negotiate tempo changes, first rehearse beginning at measure 5. After they learn to anticipate that tempo, add the slower introduction.

Exaggerate the dynamic markings to maximize the drama. The crescendos should be gradual to avoid arriving at the new dynamic early.

At measures 12-13, have the supporting parts take special care to match each other's bowings.

The Bass and Cello get the melody in measures 33-39, so have them confidently play out and carry the melody. Again, ensure the supporting parts match each other's bowings at measures 36-37.

Focus on tone! This will stimulate students to listen and, as a result, help tuning and intonation develop faster.

I hope you and your young musicians have a wonderful performance and a Merry Christmas! *Brian Bankston*

ABOUT THE ARRANGER



Brian Bankston — composer, arranger, educator, saxophonist and guitarist — resides in Alabama. The music of Brian Bankston draws from a large bag of rhythm, bass, harmony and melody that offers a variety of style and mood giving his compositions a unique signature. His compositions are designed to focus on the needs of young Concert Bands, String Orchestras and Jazz Ensembles but acceptable for any level. He creates beautiful and exciting music within the grasp of any eager beginning ensemble as well as music that will challenge a mature ensemble. His experience teaching music at all levels has given him the insight to invent fun, creative and playable works that present the fundamentals of music to students of all ages.



I SAW THREE SHIPS

Conductor Score

(On Christmas Day)

Traditional English Carol
Arr. by Brian Bankston (ASCAP)

RWS-2571-00

Searching ♩ = 112 *rit.* **5** Festive ♩ = 132

Violin 1

Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Piano (Optional)

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 (Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

f

f

f

f

f

f

==

27

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

p

p

p

p

p

p

33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

f

f

f

f

f

29 30 31 32 33 34 35

||

41

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

36 37 38 39 40 41 42

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

51

Vln. 1

Vln. 2
(Vla. T.C.)

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

51 52 53 54 55 56 57

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*

mp *f*