

RWS CONCERT STRINGS SERIES

Grade: 3

Conductor Score: RWS-2583-01

Christmas Kallikantzaros

(Kal-li-KAN-dza-ros)

Anthony Susi

CONCERT STRINGS SERIES

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin 1	8
Violin 2	8
Viola	6
Cello	5
Double Bass	5
Piano (Optional)	1
Percussion (Optional): Sleigh Bells	1

PROGRAM NOTE

This piece is a musical representation of the kallikantzaroi, found in Greek folklore, thought to dwell underground in groups, like trolls (*In the Hall of the Mountain King*), but who come to the surface from December 25 to January 6 (*The Twelve Days of Christmas* and Winter from *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*)

It is believed that kallikantzaroi stay underground, sawing the trunk of the tree that holds the Earth (*Oh Christmas Tree*) so that it will collapse, taking the Earth with it. When the final part of the trunk is about to be sawed, Christmas dawns (*Sing We Now of Christmas*), and the kallikantzaroi can come to the surface. Finally, they must return underground on the Epiphany (*We Three Kings*) to continue their sawing. However, during their absence, the world tree has healed itself (*A Partridge in a Pear Tree*), so they must start working again.

The most common belief is that kallikantzaroi are small, like elves. Some Greek illustrators imagined them having some animal parts, such as donkeys' ears and monkeys' arms, hairy bodies, and long tails. The composer adds snippets of *Sweetly Sings the Donkey* and *Monkey See, Monkey Do* disguised in a minor mode as a musical inside joke.

People sought to protect themselves in several ways during the days when the kallikantzaroi were loose. One such method is to leave a colander on their doorstep to trick the visiting kallikantzaroi. It was believed that because they could not count past 3, (3 verses of 12 Days of Christmas), the kallikantzaros would sit at the doorstep all night, recounting each hole of the colander until the sun rose and it was forced to hide. Another purported method to keep them away was to burn the Yule log for twelve days. In other regions, people would throw foul-smelling shoes into the fire, as the stench was believed to repel the kallikantzaros.

The unique qualities that set the Kallikantzaroi apart from other goblins or creatures in folklore were the brief duration of their stay on Earth and the fact that they were not considered evil creatures, just impish and simpleminded.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Attention to all articulation markings will help provide clarity of rhythm and style.

Awareness of balance is especially critical between measures 35 and 45 when various tunes are played simultaneously so the audience can recognize the musical inside jokes.

Strive for a wide dynamic spectrum to enhance the drama behind this humorous folktale. Take care to not play the pizzicato passages too delicately to create the desired resonance.

I hope you and your students enjoy performing this piece! Please visit my composer page at rwsmith.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Anthony Susi is a lifelong CT Music Educator with experience teaching grade 4 through college students. He frequently guest conducts honor band festivals for elementary, middle and high school musicians throughout his native state as well as in MA and RI. He has presented numerous state and national conference sessions/podcasts and contributed articles for publication in CMEA, Bandworld, MEJ, and SBO on music pedagogy. His performing ensembles have been featured many times at CMEA and MENC Eastern Division Conferences and have earned Superior ratings and top honors at adjudication festivals throughout the Eastern states. Mr. Susi has over 70 compositions published for Concert, Marching, and Jazz Bands as well as Orchestra. He also serves as an Adjudicator/Clinician for CMEA & Fantastic Festivals (Inspire). Some of his works have been finalists in national composition contests (2021, '22 & '23) and featured at the Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic (2018, 22 & 23) and noted in The Instrumentalist magazine, JW Pepper's Editors Choice, Stanton's 5 Star Feature and the Top 100 lists by Bandworld magazine and the CT Chapter of ASBDA. Outside of music education, Mr. Susi has also composed and recorded seven CDs of original music in a variety of genres that have been featured on Best of CT & RI compilation discs and the soap opera, As the World Turns. In addition to composing and teaching, he is an active solo artist on guitar, keyboard and vocals, performing regularly at several establishments around his home state.



CHRISTMAS KALLIKANTZAROS

Conductor Score

(Kal-li-KAN-dza-ros)

Anthony Susi (BMI)

RWS-2583-00

Moderately $\text{♩} = 100$

Oh Christmas Tree

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Piano
(Optional)

Percussion
(Optional)
Sleigh Bells

1 *mf* 2 3 4

9 Sing We Now of Christmas

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

Opt. Perc.

5 6 7 8 9

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

10 *mp* 11 *mp* 12 *mf* 13 *mf* 14

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

15 *mp* 16 *mp* 17 *p* 18 *p* 19 *p*

17 Winter div.

musical score for measures 20-24, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., Pno., and Opt. Perc. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* and *div.*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

musical score for measures 25-29, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B., Pno., and Opt. Perc. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* and *div.*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

30

In the Hall of the Mountain King

Twelve Days of Christmas

Vln. 1 *p* *mp*
 Vln. 2 *p* *mp*
 Vla. *p* *mp*
 Vcl. *p* *mp*
 D.B. *p* *mp*
 Pno. *p* *mp*
 Opt. Perc. *mp*

30 31 32 33 34 *mp*



39

Sweetly Sings the Donkey

Vln. 1 *mf*
 Vln. 2 *mf*
 Vla. *mf*
 Vcl. *mf*
 D.B. *mf*
 Pno. *mf*
 Opt. Perc. *mf*

35 36 37 38 39 *mf*

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

40 41 42 43 44

mp

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Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

45 46 47 48 49

mf

Legal Use Requires Purchase

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

50 *mf* 51 52 53 54 *mp*

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

55 56 57 58 59

61

60 61 62 63 64

Vln. 1 *pizz.*
mf

Vln. 2 *pizz.*
mf

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno. *mf*

Opt. Perc.

accel. **Allegretto** ♩ = 110
We Three Kings

65 66 67 68 69 *f*

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f* arco

D.B. *f* arco

Pno. *f*

Opt. Perc. *f*

72

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

arco
 div.
 arco
 arco
 unis.

70 71 72 73 74

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Opt. Perc.

div.
 unis.
 div.
 ff
 unis.
 ff
 ff
 ff
 ff

Hey!
 Hey!
 Hey!
 Hey!
 Hey!
 Hey!
 Hey!

75 76 77 78 79