

String Orchestra

Grade 1.5

Birthday Party Waltz

Horace Weston

arr. Lauryn Deets

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
3 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 Viola
5 Cello
3 Cello 2 (D.B.)
5 Double Bass
1 Rehearsal Piano

Full Set \$55.00

Extra Score \$10.00

Extra Part \$5.00

DogSmile Music



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THE COMPOSER



Horace Weston (c. 1825 – May 22, 1890) was an American musician, regarded as one of the finest banjo players of all time. Horace left home as a child, learned several musical instruments when young, including accordion, violin, and guitar, and worked as a dance teacher. He traveled in New York state, and after breaking his guitar began learning the banjo. After a while he began playing banjo in the streets of Hartford, Connecticut. He was among the first African Americans to gain a significant reputation as a musician, was a major star of minstrel shows, and was billed as "The World's Greatest Banjoist".

THE ARRANGER



Lauryn Deets is a cellist and music educator based in Pleasant Valley, Iowa. With over 14 years of teaching experience, she currently serves as the director of Junior High Orchestras in the Pleasant Valley Community School District. A dedicated advocate for music education, Deets holds a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, and a Master of Music Education from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, Illinois. In addition to being a National Board Certified Teacher, Deets also holds a teaching endorsement in secondary mathematics. She resides in Geneseo, IL with her two beautiful daughters and husband, Matthew.

THE WORK

Step into the celebration with Birthday Party Waltz, a lively arrangement of Horace Weston's 1883 composition originally written for two banjos. Weston, a Black composer and virtuoso banjoist from Connecticut, mastered many instruments, but was most widely recognized for his brilliance on the banjo. The string orchestra setting preserves the charm and sparkle of the original while offering young musicians the chance to learn hooked bowing and the concept of an anacrusis, building bow flexibility as they bring this light, festive waltz to life. This string orchestra work marks Deets's debut publication as an arranger, blending a strong foundation in music education with a passion for orchestral writing and string pedagogy.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- **Waltz** - A Dance in 3 where beat one has the strongest feeling. Beats two and three should feel lighter.
- **Hooked Bow** - When performing a hooked bow students should strive to make both notes the same length in both sound and bow usage. While the notes are marked staccato be careful not to create a choked sound. A light, fast moving bowing will get you the perfect sound for this piece.
- **Anacrusis** - This is the technical term for what is commonly referred to as a "Pick Up." In Birthday Party Waltz, every section will play the melody that has a quarter note on beat 3 that leads into the main theme.

Score
Grade 1.5
Duration 1:50

Birthday Party Waltz

Horace Weston
arr. Lauryn Deets

With Joy ♩ = 110

The musical score is arranged for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and Rehearsal Piano. The key signature is two sharps (D major) and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'With Joy' at 110 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems, with measures 1-6 in the first system and measures 7-12 in the second system. Performance instructions include dynamics like *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano), and techniques such as *pizz.* (pizzicato), *arco* (arco), and *sim.* (simile). The Rehearsal Piano part provides a simplified accompaniment. A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.



Birthday Party Waltz
Score

17

Musical score for measures 13-18. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., Db., and Pno. A circled measure number '17' is placed above the first staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score features various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings such as *mf* and *pizz.*

13 14 15 16 17 18

Musical score for measures 19-24. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., Db., and Pno. A double bar line is shown at the beginning of the system. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score features various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings such as *p*.

Birthday Party Waltz
Score

25

Musical score for measures 25-30. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (Db.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measures 25-28 show a melodic line in the strings and piano. Measures 29-30 continue the melodic line. Performance markings include 'pizz.' (pizzicato) for the Vc. and Db. parts, and fingerings '1' and '0' for the Vc. and Db. parts respectively.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. pizz. 1

Db. pizz. 0

Pno.

25 26 27 28 29 30

33

Musical score for measures 31-36. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (Db.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measures 31-32 show a melodic line in the strings and piano. Measures 33-36 show a change in dynamics and performance markings. Performance markings include 'arco' (arco) for the Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla. parts, and 'mp' (mezzo-piano) for the Vc., Db., and Pno. parts.

Vln. 1 arco p mp

Vln. 2 arco mp

Vla. arco mp

Vc. mp

Db. mp

Pno. mp

31 32 33 34 35 36

Birthday Party Waltz
Score

41

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf* arco

Db. *mf* arco

Pno. *mf*

37 38 39 40 41 42

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Db. *f*

Pno. *f*

43 44 45 46 47 48

Birthday Party Waltz
Score

49

Musical score for measures 49-54. The score is for a waltz in 3/4 time, key of D major. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The piano part is shown in grand staff notation. The music consists of a repeating eighth-note melody in the upper strings and a steady bass line in the lower strings and piano.

49 50 51 52 53 54

1. 2.

Musical score for measures 55-60. This section includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.) for measures 55-56. The notation continues for measures 57-60. The instruments and parts are the same as in the previous section. The piano part continues with a consistent accompaniment.