

# DECK THE HALLS WITH BOWS AND ROSIN

TRADITIONAL

Arranged by KATIE O'HARA LABRIE

## INSTRUMENTATION

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- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass
- 1 Piano (opt.)

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## THE ARRANGER

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Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a composer, conductor, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. Her compositions have received many accolades including frequent selection as J.W. Pepper Editors' Choice, as well as performances at the Midwest Clinic and

American String Teachers Association Conference. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40," for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players, and co-creator of "the Big IDEA" practice method. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam.

## ABOUT THE MUSIC

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You've likely heard of "deck the halls with boughs of holly" before... but do we have a twist for you! We've been learning a lot this year, from plucking the string (which is called "pizzicato") to holding our bows and playing "arco." But there is one important step we must always remember: rosinning the bow! *Deck the Halls with Bows and Rosin* will feature all of these important (and fun!) aspects of playing our instruments.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

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I had so much fun putting this piece together! It's written to be exciting for the students, engaging for the audience, and, of course, educational. The first violins use a full D major scale range while the rest of the orchestra only uses D to B. The second violins and violas are doubled, as are the cellos and basses.

The "x" noteheads are meant to be played by bowing on a block of rosin as loudly as possible, while maintaining a good bow hand and a straight bow. Cello and double bass students should be able to accomplish this simply with their left hand holding the rosin in front of their instruments. Violin and viola players will have to coordinate putting their instrument down on their laps to pick up their rosin and have free movement of their right arm to do the bowing motion. I suggest telling them to keep their knees up so their instruments don't drop to the floor!

As a very beginning level piece, I kept the rhythms to all quarter and eighth notes throughout. However, if your students are familiar with the traditional dotted quarter melody and you would like to teach the piece as such, you have my full permission to rewrite beats 3 and 4 of the "fa-la-la-la" measures as dotted quarter-eighth note patterns. This could be a great way to introduce dotted notes to young players!

—Katie O'Hara LaBrie

# DECK THE HALLS WITH BOWS AND ROSIN

DURATION: 1:30

TRADITIONAL  
Arranged by  
KATIE O'HARA LABRIE  
(ASCAP)

Joyfully (♩ = 112)

The musical score is arranged for Violin 1, Violin 2 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The piece is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Joyfully' with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 4, and the second system covers measures 5 through 8. The Violin 1 and 2 parts feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, often marked with 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and 'f' (forte). The Viola and Violoncello parts also play eighth notes, with the Violoncello part marked 'f' and 'pizz.'. The Double Bass part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked 'f'. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines, marked 'f'. In the second system, measures 7 and 8 include performance instructions for the string sections: 'bow on rosin' with specific bowing patterns (marked with 'x' and 'v') for Violin 1, Violin 2, and Viola. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte) in measure 6. The Piano part continues with its accompaniment, marked 'mf'.



Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

9 10 11 12

14

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

13 14 15 16 17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

18 19 20 21

22

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

22 23 24 25

arco

*f*

arco

*f*

arco

*f*

bow on rosin

bow on rosin

bow on rosin

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

26 27 28 29

30

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

30 31 32 33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

34 35 36 37

38

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

38 39 40 41 42