

The Elf's Day Off

For String Orchestra, Grade 2.5
by Kevin Sluder

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass*
2 - Glockenspiel
2 - Sleigh Bells



Note from the Editor:

This piece is written with educational intent, where students remain in one finger pattern the entire piece as a way to allow students to explore the key of Eb in an approachable way. It's bright and cheery and a great intro to spiccato as well. Warm-up suggestions are included in the score as part of the "Getting in Gear Companion Series."

*A Cello 2 part that doubles the Bass is available as a free download at randallstandridge.com.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$60.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$5.00



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The Elf's Day Off

By Kevin Sluder, Grade 2.5

Program Notes:

All year long, the elves toil in Santa's workshop, working tirelessly to make gifts for the good little children of the world. However, even an elf needs a day off every now and then.

What would an elf do with a full day of no responsibilities? Catch some mostly-obscured sun on the frozen beach of Lake North Pole? Ride the rollercoasters and eat a funnel cake at SantaWorld? Or maybe just stay home and read the newest novel by Mrs. Claus.

The Elf's Day Off is a fun, sparkly piece that celebrates everyone's need for some R&R. Don't worry, the elf will return refreshed and ready to work tomorrow. We expect no delays in your gifts this year.

About this Piece:

This piece was written as a way to reinforce the one octave Eb Major Scale with your students. It's another one of those scales that we always teach, but rarely have a performance opportunity until the grade level is much higher. Using only the one-octave keeps students in one fingering pattern the entire time. Basses will have the option to shift to 3rd position or cross strings in $\frac{1}{2}$ position.

The sleigh bells and mallets are optional, but do add an extra bit of holiday charm.

– Kevin Sluder



About the Composer:

Kevin Sluder is a Texas string orchestra director in the DFW area and has been teaching in the public school system since 2007. His middle school program in Frisco, TX was named the 2024 and 2026 TMEA JH/MS Full Honor Orchestra.

Born and raised in Mansfield, TX, Mr. Sluder obtained his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas in Denton. A bass player by trade, he also has experience in percussion and guitar, with a deep love of rhythm.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Sluder spends a great deal of time composing and arranging music. He also runs two podcasts. *Rite of String*, co-hosted with Matthew Moreno, focuses on string education. *SluderMusic* is a showcase of Mr. Sluder's published pieces. In addition to his work in the "classical" world, he has written and recorded several rock/electronic albums that are available on most streaming services.

Mr. Sluder currently resides in McKinney, TX with his wife (and fellow Orchestra director), Bethany Hardwick. In his limited spare time, he enjoys taking naps, camping, and playing video games.

The Elf's Day Off

Score
Grade 2.5
Duration 1:50

Kevin Sluder

Jolly ♩ = 124

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola (Violin 3)
Cello
Double Bass (Cello 2)
Glockenspiel (Optional)
Sleigh Bells (Optional)

5 1 2 3 4

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Bls.
S. Bls.

mf off the string
mf
mf
mf
mf
f legato
f 1/2 pos.

5 6 7 8 9

Musical score for measures 10-14. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Flute, and Snare Drum. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure 10 shows the beginning of the section with various instruments. Measures 11 and 12 continue the melodic lines. Measure 13 features a 'legato' marking and a 'p' (piano) dynamic. Measure 14 concludes the section. The Snare Drum part consists of rhythmic patterns of 'x' marks.

Musical score for measures 15-20. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Flute, and Snare Drum. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure 15 begins with a 'mp' (mezzo-piano) dynamic. Measure 16 has a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) dynamic. Measure 17 has a 'mp' dynamic. Measure 18 has a 'mp' dynamic and includes fingering numbers '-1' and '-4'. Measure 19 has a 'mp' dynamic and a 'legato' marking. Measure 20 concludes the section. The Snare Drum part continues with rhythmic patterns.

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is for a string quartet and woodwinds. The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Clarinet (Bls.), and Saxophone (S. Bls.). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score shows a transition from *f* to *mf* at measure 23. The woodwinds play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

25

Musical score for measures 25-29. The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Clarinet (Bls.), and Saxophone (S. Bls.). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score shows a melodic line in the violins and a rhythmic pattern in the woodwinds.

33

Musical score for measures 30-34. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Clarinet, and Snare Drum. Measures 30 and 31 show a steady accompaniment. Measure 32 features a forte (*f*) dynamic with accents and a snare drum pattern. Measures 33 and 34 include pizzicato (*pizz.*) markings for the strings and a snare drum pattern.

Musical score for measures 35-39. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Clarinet, and Snare Drum. Measures 35-39 show a continuation of the accompaniment with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

43

Musical score for measures 40-44. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Clarinet, and Snare Drum. Measures 40-41 feature 'arco' markings. Measure 42 has a '-4' marking. Measure 43 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 44 has a '-1' marking. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 45-49. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Clarinet, and Snare Drum. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. Measure 49 has a '-1' marking. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

53

50 51 52 53

This block contains the musical score for measures 50 through 53. It features six staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Saxophone (S. Bls.). The key signature is B-flat major. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *cresc.* (crescendo). A box containing the number '53' is positioned above the first staff of the second system. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

54 55 56 57

This block contains the musical score for measures 54 through 57. It features the same six staves as the previous block. The score includes dynamic markings such as *pp* (pianissimo), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *ff* (fortissimo). A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.