FABLES

(I. The Tortoise and the Hare II. The Boy Who Cried "Wolf!" III. The Country Mouse and the City Mouse)

By Richard Meyer

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

FABLES

I. The Tortoise and the Hare

This movement begins with the theme of a plodding, yet determined tortoise, represented by the cellos and basses. A frenetic and jumpy hare is then introduced by violins and violas (m.11). After a brief dialogue between the two (m. 19), a fanfare is heard announcing the beginning of the race (m. 23). The starter's pistol sounds (pizzicato note in m. 24), and they're off! The much faster hare bolts into the lead, leaving the tortoise behind. Realizing he has a sizable lead, the hare stops to rest and falls asleep (m. 33) as the tortoise continues on. The hare awakens with a jolt (m. 38), realizes his mistake, and dashes forward, desperately trying to catch the tortoise who crosses the finish line just ahead of him (mm. 42–43), winning the race.

II. The Boy Who Cried "Wolf!"

A pastoral theme is introduced representing a young shepherd boy. Bored with his work, the boy decides to play a trick on the villagers, yelling out "Wolf! Wolf!" (mm. 16–17) while jumping around in false hysterics (mm. 18–24, the original 6/8 theme changed to a minor key in 2/4 time). Hearing his cries, the villagers come running to the boy's aid (cellos and basses m. 27), only to find him laughing at them (mm. 30–31). The boy tricks the villagers again, and is pleased with himself and his antics (m. 43). Finally, a real wolf appears (m. 52), and the boy's cries for help go unheeded (mm. 56–59). The wolf slowly approaches the crying boy (m. 60), attacks him (m. 63), and swallows him whole, in two big gulps (mm. 66–67). The movement ends with the boy's muffled cries from within the wolf's stomach (mm. 68–69).

III. The Country Mouse and the City Mouse

Unlike the first two movements, this movement is not programmatic, but rather an amusing interplay between two themes of contrasting styles that represent the two mice in Aesop's fable. The country mouse is heard as a rousing square dance (m. 4), while the city mouse is represented by a stately waltz (m. 19) from Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. The two themes are heard in alternation, growing closer and closer together as the movement unfolds.

HIGHLAND/ETLING
A DIVISION OF Alfred

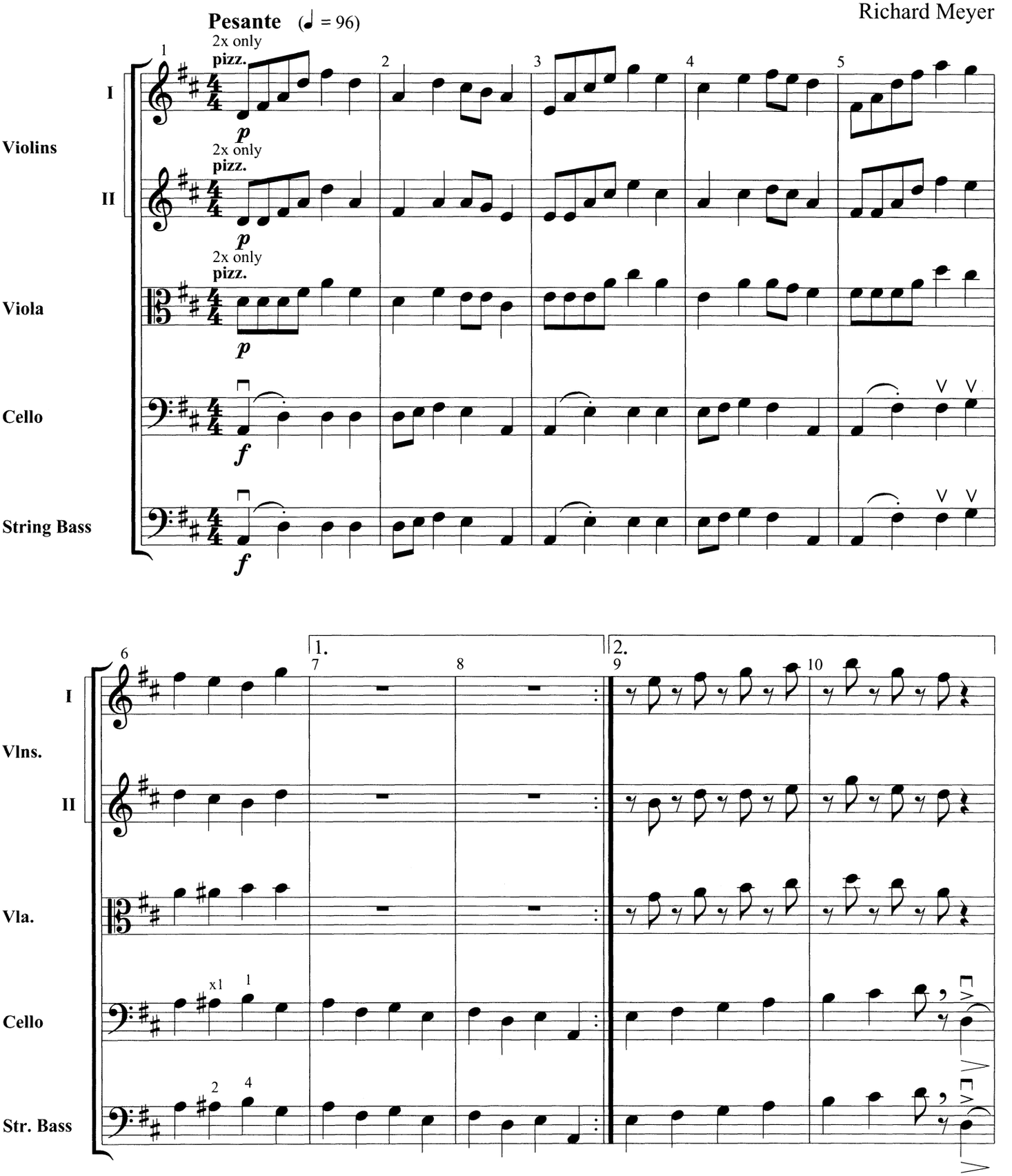
Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

Fables

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 6:00

I. The Tortoise and the Hare

Richard Meyer



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