

STRING EXPLORER SERIES

Campfire Songs

Traditional

Arranged by Andrew H. Dabczynski

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score.....	1
Violin I.....	8
Violin II.....	8
Violin III (Viola 	3
Viola.....	5
Cello.....	5
String Bass.....	5
Vocal.....	1
Piano Accompaniment.....	1

Everyone loves to sing around a campfire, and here's a set of favorite campfire songs set in the range of a one octave D Major scale with many parts doubled! This medley of easy, familiar tunes including "This Old Man," "In a Cabin in a Wood," "Bingo," "Kumbaya," "Wheels on the Bus," and "This Little Light of Mine," gives everyone a chance to play a melody or two, and to join in with an upbeat accompaniment. An optional sing-along part invites audience participation, and makes *Campfire Songs* the perfect piece for a first year concert, school assembly, or summer program.

PROGRAM NOTES

Singing around a glowing campfire has been an American tradition since before colonial days. *Campfire Songs* is a medley of fun, familiar tunes that have been sing-along favorites of summer campers, hikers, and even cowboys on the range. The medley begins with "This Old Man," and is followed by "In a Cabin in a Wood." The well-known song about "Bingo" the dog is then heard, with the melody traded among the orchestra sections. In calm contrast, the spiritual "Kumbaya" is the next song, presented with a flowing accompaniment. The silly action song "The Wheels on the Bus" is the next tune, and the medley closes with the well-known anthem, "This Little Light of Mine." Come gather around the campfire and join in the singing!



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Campfire Songs provides an opportunity for beginning string students to play familiar traditional songs while focusing on basic rhythm patterns and one octave D-major scale/open string pitches. Students would benefit from first singing the songs using the optional voice part. With only a few small exceptions, parts are doubled throughout the arrangement so that the orchestration is essentially in only three parts.

Following a brief, 2-measure introduction, the familiar "This Old Man" is heard, with the melody in the first violins (mm. 3–10) and second violin/viola and cello/bass parts doubled in accompaniment. This pattern continues with the brief, 4-measure melody "In a Cabin in a Wood" (mm. 11–15). The well-known "Bingo" melody is heard next, with the melody started by the cello/bass (mm. 16–17), continued by the second violins/violas (mm. 18–19), completed by the first violins (mm. 20–25), and completed again by the cello/basses (mm. 26–27). Care should be taken to play mm. 20–25 humorously staccato. In contrast, the next tune heard is the spiritual "Kumbaya" (mm. 27–40), played legato and broadly. The melody is heard in the first violins, with the other instruments providing a calm, full accompaniment. Care should be taken to observe dynamic changes in this section. With a sudden, contrasting dynamic and key change (in G major, but written within the D major key signature), the second violins/violas next present the melody to the action song "The Wheels on the Bus" (based on the old English folk song, "All Around the Mulberry Bush," mm. 41–49). Finally, the folk anthem "This Little Light of Mine" is heard (mm. 50–69, again in G major). The violins and violas/cello play the melody in canon, with the basses providing a pizzicato bass line. (Note: the bass plays C-naturals in measures 54, 55, 64, and 68—the only pitch outside the boundaries of the one-octave D-major scale/open strings.) The effect of this tune should be one of a long, driving crescendo, closing with an elongated 4-measure coda.

An optional voice part/word sheet is provided to facilitate audience participation in the tradition of "singing around the campfire."

Campfire Songs

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 2:40

Traditional
By Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

Moderately (♩ = 126) 3 "This Old Man"

Violins
I
II

Viola (Violin III)

Cello

String Bass

Piano Accompaniment

Moderately (♩ = 126) 3 "This Old Man"

Vlms.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 "In a Cabin in a Wood" 1. 2.

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf* *f*

Pno. Accomp. *mp* *mf*

11 12 13 14 15

3rd Pos. -2 4 1st Pos. -1 3rd Pos. 4

16 "Bingo" 20

Vlns. I *f* *p*

Vlns. II *f* *p*

Vla. (Vln. III) *f* *p*

Cello *f* *p*

Str. Bass *f* *p*

Pno. Accomp. *pp*

16 17 18 19 20

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vlns.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

21 22 23 24 25

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

mf

Vlns.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

26 27 28 29 30 31

"Kumbaya" 28

p legato *cresc.*

p legato *cresc.*

p legato *cresc.*

p *legato* *cresc.*

pp legato *cresc.*

36

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

mf dim. p

32 33 34 35 36 37

40

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

mf

40

38 39 40 41 42 43

44 "The Wheels on the Bus"
("Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

Vlns.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello
pizz.
mf

Str. Bass
pizz.
mf

44 "The Wheels on the Bus"
("Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush")

Pno. Accomp.

44 45 46 47

Vlns.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

1. 2.

Pno. Accomp.

48 49 50 51 52

53 "This Little Light of Mine"

Vlns. I *p*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. (Vln. III) *p*

Cello *p* arco

Str. Bass *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 53 through 57. It includes staves for Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass, along with a Piano Accompaniment staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the piano accompaniment provides harmonic support. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

53 "This Little Light of Mine"

Pno. Accomp. *pp*

53 54 55 56 57

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 53 to 57. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a more active bass line in the left hand. The dynamic is marked *pp* (pianissimo). A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

61

Vlns. I *cresc.* *mf*

Vlns. II *cresc.* *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III) *cresc.* *mf*

Cello *cresc.* *mf*

Str. Bass *cresc.* *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 58 through 62. It includes staves for Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass, along with a Piano Accompaniment staff. The dynamics for the strings are marked *cresc.* (crescendo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piano accompaniment is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

61

Pno. Accomp. *cresc.* *mp*

58 59 60 61 62

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for measures 58 to 62. The piano part continues with the eighth-note accompaniment, showing a dynamic shift from *cresc.* to *mp*. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

Vlns.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

cresc.

63 64 65 66 67

Vlns.
I
II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

f

mf

rit.

68 69 70 71 72