

OLD DAN TUCKER

Traditional American Fiddle Tune
Arranged by Renata Bratt

INSTRUMENTATION

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

Here's your opportunity to get the audience singing along in this rip-roaring Americana fiddle tune. Covered by Bruce Springsteen, Pete Seeger, and your primary school, it is a great finale or encore for your intermediate string orchestra. Every instrument has the melody in first position in this arrangement, and it teaches syncopation and cut time! All sections have optional singing parts as well. As the conductor, you can decide whether they get to sing it or play it. Or change it up for rehearsal and concert!



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

I don't remember learning this tune but I do remember singing it all over the house as a very small child. This year, I was happy to see an entire stadium of folks singing the tune along with Bruce Springsteen. There are lots of different lyrics for the song—these are just the ones I chose for this version. It's interesting to students how different lyrics force you to play different rhythms or leave out notes. You can point out one of those differences in verse 1 “washed his face in a frying pan” at measures 11–12 and verse 2, “riding a billy goat” at measures 31–32. I'm sure you or your students can find more examples.

Singing or playing the melody is up to you. It's a lot easier to sing syncopated tunes and then play them after you “know how it goes.” You can try having half the section play and the other half sing. Or let the students pick. This is always a fun choice.

There are accents placed over most off-beats for the tune and harmony parts. Fiddle tunes are usually played with those accents because they really drive the rhythm forward. At first, you can conduct in 4/4 time as it is much easier to follow for younger players. Then, when the tune is more familiar, go ahead and conduct in two. There are usually just two beats per bar in most fiddle tunes.

The cellos and first violins get to play the fiddle style minor third to major third throughout the tune. You might want to have them practice this fun bit. For the first violins—this low 2 to high 2 on the D string occurs in measures 1, 3, and 26. The same figure on the E string with low 1 to high 1 occurs in measures 27–28. For the cellos, playing 2 to 3 on the D string occurs at measures 8, 24, 45–46 and m. 48.

Don't forget to invite the audience to sing along with you on the final chorus at measure 57. Folks love to sing, and they especially like to sing while their children are performing. I've been placing these sing-along tunes at the end of our school concerts for a while now, and it makes for a terrific finish to any concert.

Old Dan Tucker

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 1:45

Traditional American Fiddle Tune
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Students may play or sing. Conductor's choice.

Lively (♩ = 82)

Violins

I *f*

II *mp*

Viola

mp

Cello

String Bass

mf

1 2 3 4

Vlins.

I *mp*

II

Vla.

Cello

f

Str. Bass

pizz.

5 6 7 8

9 **Sing!**

Vlns. I *f* Old Dan Tuck-er was a fine old man, he washed his face in a

Vlns. II *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass

9 10 11

13 *pizz.* *p*

Vlns. I fry - ing pan.

Vlns. II

Vla. **Sing!** *arco* *f* Combed his hair with a wa - gon wheel, and

Cello *pizz.*

Str. Bass

12 13 14

17

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp arco

Sing!

f Get out the way

pizz.

mp arco

Sing 8va!

f Get out the way

died with a tooth-ache in his heel.

15 16 17

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to get your sup-per,

3

old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to get your sup-per,

18 19 20

I
Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Get out the way old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to

21 22 23

I
Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

25 arco

mf

arco

mp

mp

arco

get your sup-per.

24 25 26

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

mf

Sing!

f per. Old Dan Tuck-er

mf

pizz.

27 28 29

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

came to town, rid - ing a bil - ly goat lead - ing a hound. The

30 31 32

non div.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

hound dog barked and the bil - ly goat jumped, and land - ed old Tuck - er

33 34 35

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

on a stump.

Sing!

f Get out the way old Dan Tuck - er,

mf

Sing 8va! *arco*

f Get out the way old Dan Tuck - er,

36 37 38

Sing 8vb!

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

You're too late to get your sup-per. Get out the way

39 40 41

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to get your sup-per.

42 43 44

45

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II

Vla. *mp*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *pizz.* *mp*

3

45 46 47 48

49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. *f* Sing!

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass

Old Dan Tuck-er has_ come to town. He's swing-in' the la - dies

49 50 51

53

non div.

Vlns.

Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts for measures 52-54. The Cello part includes the lyrics: "all a - round. First to the right and then to the left,". Dynamic markings include *mf* and *f*. Performance instructions include *non div.*, *mf*, *f*, and *Sing &va!*.

52

mf

53

54

57 Audience Sings!

Vlns.

Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts for measures 55-57. The Cello part includes the lyrics: "Then to the gal that he loves best. Get out the way". Dynamic markings include *f*. Performance instructions include *Sing!*, *f*, and *arco*.

55

56

f

57

Str. Bass

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to get your sup-per.

58 59 60

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Sing *8vb!*

Get out the way old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to

Get out the way old Dan Tuck-er, You're too late to

pizz.

61 62 63

65

Vlns. I
get your sup-per.

Vlns. II
get your sup-per.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

64 *mp* 65 66 *mf* 67

arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

68 69 70 71