

# STRING EXPLORER SERIES

## Fiddler on the Housetop

By Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

### INSTRUMENTATION

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

### PROGRAM NOTES

"Up on the Housetop" is attributed to Ohio composer Benjamin Hanby, and is said to have been written in the 1860s. Versions of the song have been sung and arranged for generations. In this setting, Santa finds some fiddlers up on the roof, and of course we have *Fiddler on the Housetop*! With tongue-in-cheek humor, the arrangement starts in a plaintive, minor setting of the tune, one with a distinctly eastern European flare. But soon, our young fiddlers take off in an upbeat, old-time style. If Santa knows how to clog or square dance, his boots will be flying to *Fiddler on the Housetop*!



### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

*Fiddler on the Housetop* is an arrangement of “Up on the Housetop.” In this tongue-in-cheek and thoroughly playable arrangement, young string players will play like eastern European fiddlers, then spin into an upbeat and driving American fiddle version of the holiday standard. The arrangement starts in a steady, unrushed tempo ( $\text{♩} = 112$ ), and following a four-measure introduction, the melody is heard with a distinctively eastern European flavor. This section (mm. 5–20) is set in E-minor; however, notes are easily within the capacity of students in their first year of study. Violas and celli begin (mm. 5–12), with the violins answering (mm. 13–20). The introductory material returns (mm. 21–23), but slows and pauses on a surprise fermata (m. 23). A sudden, upbeat introduction is then heard (mm. 24–25) to kick off a new setting of *Housetop*, this time with the flair of an old-time fiddle tune. Care should be taken that all notes are played legato throughout this section (mm. 24–69), and that dynamic balance is maintained. The first violins begin the melody in this fiddle setting (mm. 26–41), with second violins and violas in harmony. The violas and celli begin the second statement of the melody (mm. 42–45), answered by the firsts and seconds (mm. 46–49). In each segment, students will be challenged by the addition of a B-flat—this note will be easy to learn, and functions in this setting as an ornamental slide. The basses and celli follow with a walking bass line, punctuated by rhythmic accompaniments in the other instruments (mm. 50–57). The old-time version is repeated (m. 61 to m. 42). The arrangement closes with a classic “shave-and-a-haircut” tag.

# Fiddler on the Housetop

CONDUCTOR SCORE  
Duration - 2:30

Andrew H. Dabczynski (ASCAP)

Andante (♩ = 112)

Violins I  
Violins II  
Viola (Violin III)  
Cello  
String Bass

Piano Accompaniment

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11

13

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp. *mf*

12 13 14 15 16

21

Vlns. I *f* *mp*

Vlns. II *f* *mp*

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

Cello *f* *mp*

Str. Bass *f* *mp*

Piano Accomp. *f* *mp*

17 18 19 20 21

rit. 24 Allegro (♩ = 116)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

*p* *sim.* *mf*

*p* *sim.* *mf*

*p* *sim.* *mf*

*p* *sim. pizz.* *mf*

*p* *mf*

22 23 24 25 26

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

27 28 29 30 31

34

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

32 33 34 35 36

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

37 38 39 40 41

42

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mp*

Piano Accomp. *mp*

Lo 2 -2

Lo 1 -1

2 3

42 43 44 45

46

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

Lo 1 -1

46 47 48 49

50

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mp*

Cello *mf* pizz. Lo 1 -1 3 2

Str. Bass *mf* 2 4 4 2

Piano Accomp. *mf*

*cresc.*

50 51 52 53 54

58

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. (Vln. III) *f*

Cello *f* arco

Str. Bass *f*

Piano Accomp. *f*

58

55 56 57 58 59



1. 2. 64

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

60 61 62 63 64

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

Piano Accomp.

*mp* *p* *f*

*mp* *p* *f*

*mp* *p* *f*

65 66 67 68 69