Asian Festival Dance

for

STRING ORCHESTRA
AND PIANO (Optional Percussion)

by

Frank M. Rodgers

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor Score
1 Piano
8 1st Violin
8 2nd Violin
2 T.C. Viola (3rd Violin)
5 Viola
5 Cello
5 Bass
1 Percussion (Finger Cymbal, Gong)

EXTRA SCORE $10.00 EACH **** EXTRA PART $4.00 EACH
Conductor Score

Performance Time: 1:35

ASIAN FESTIVAL DANCE

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STRING ORCHESTRA, PIANO, and PERCUSSION

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Asian Festival Dance

BLURB

This is a most unique and utterly fabulous piece written especially for the beginning string orchestra. The scintillating harmony of chords written in intervals of 4ths and 5ths (no 3rds allowed!) that move in parallel motion are so very typical of the alluring and mesmerizing sounds of the mystic Orient. An optional percussion part for finger cymbals and gong was written so as to legitimise the authenticity of this work. Just like a Toyota Prius, Asian Festival Dance is a hybrid consisting of predominantly Oriental musical styles unobtrusively infused with a tasteful, but subtle dash of Western musical styles. Each section of the orchestra is featured throughout the entire piece. It's NOT a piece for VIOLINS ONLY!

The notes are rather easy and should be fairly familiar to beginning string students entering their 2nd semester of beginning orchestra. In general, all string parts have at least 2 “open” string notes and 5 or less “fingered” notes. Most rhythms consist of the basic quarter notes paired with eighth notes. To make things a bit more exciting, all sections will be featured in playing some zany syncopated rhythms. To facilitate the teaching of these syncopated patterns, the composer has written some rather entertaining and witty “word associations” which will put your students on a rapid learning curve. Teachers familiar with the Suzuki method will tell you that they use a variety of “word associations (phrases)” when teaching certain rhythm patterns to beginning students. [Wis-si-sip-pi Riv___ver___ (4) 8th notes + (2) quarter notes ].

Most dynamic markings used are very basic with a few more advanced ones added (i.e. staccato, poco a poco cresc.). Bowing styles (a.k.a. Bow Strokes) used in this piece are: the basic détaché stroke, the traditional “short” staccato stroke, the “long” staccato stroke, and finally the accented bow stroke.

Due to a variety of bow strokes and dynamic markings, this piece affords your students a unique opportunity to develop both musically and technically. The challenges in this piece are purposely designed for string students at the beginning level. The composer suggests the appropriate time to teach this piece would be sometime in the 2nd semester of beginning strings. Do to the unique and unusual style of this piece, it bound to be a concert highlight. This is a real fun and entertaining piece for your students to learn and you to teach. My fortune cookie says: The wise teacher is one who teaches his/her students The SONG WITH A GONG!

Title: Asian Festival Dance  (New Work for 2015)

Composer: Frank M. Rodgers

Publisher: MSB Publishing Co.

Grade Level: Grade 1 (Easy)

Performance Time: 1:35

Measure Count: 49

Instrumentation: Score, Optional Piano, Optional Percussion (Finger Cymbals & Gong) 1st Violin, 2nd Violin, Treble Clef Viola (3rd Violin), Viola, Cello, String Bass

Catalog # S0-274

Set C (8/8/2/5/5/5) Price: $42.00

Extra Part: $4.00 ea.

Full Score: $10.00
Asian Festival Dance

Foreword

Asian Festival Dance is definitely a "must have" piece for your elementary orchestra library. It will certainly add a very unique and exciting musical experience for your audience. Most of it is written using traditional Oriental rhythms as well as traditional Oriental chord structure, in which chords are predominantly written in intervals of 4ths and 5ths and move in parallel motion. I must admit I have injected a small amount of American style harmony and rhythm, but for the most part its flavor is overwhelmingly Oriental (Asian).

Easy Notes I am very confident you will find the notes to be a rather easy read for your beginning students. Most parts have six or less "fingered" notes and 2 open strings. Notes by section are as follows:

1st Violin

2nd Violin

Viola

Cello

Bass

Bowings styles and articulations used

1. DéVaché - Basic bow stroke characterized by smooth changes of the bow.
2. "Traditional" Staccato [ ] Played with a very short bow stroke without too much of an accent
3. The "Long" Staccato [ ] Played longer than the "traditional" staccato with a light break between each note
4. accents [] To be played with a firm emphasis at the beginning of each bow stroke
5. Re-take Bow [ ] Re-setting (lifting) the bow in order to play 2 consecutive "down" bows

Dynamics used

Most of the dynamics are very basic, such as: \( p \) - \( f \) - \( ff \). Dynamics terms that may not be familiar to your students are as follows: \( p \) subito (Suddenly Soft) - \( f \) poco a poco cres. (little by little getting louder)

A Couple of humble suggestions for teaching this piece

1. Where to start I suggest you first begin teaching the last measure before anything else. Why start there, you may ask. The answer is fairly simple. Generally, today's youth have short attention spans and expect instantaneous results without putting in a whole lot of effort. If that doesn't happen, they get frustrated and want to quit the program. The last measure is very easy that they will learn in less than 5 minutes. After that, teach the next to the last measure, which is slightly more difficult but not terribly hard. Assuming they have learned these 2 measures in one class period, they will be expected to start learning the rest of the piece. The trick is to build their confidence and enthusiasm. You do this by guaranteeing them success from the "git-go". While you and I may not consider that all that great of an accomplishment, they will consider it a huge accomplishment involving very little effort and having a fun time learning it.

2. Practicing rhythm patterns and bowing styles After the students have mastered clapping and counting the rhythms by your preferred method, have them next play them on their instrument, using an open string. Once they mastered that, you can start introducing the actual notes. I suggest you first have them play the notes pizzicato and introduce the bow at a later time when they mastered the pizzicato playing.

3. Building speed This piece must be performed at a fairly fast clip. I'm certain you are familiar with the method most artists use in preparing a difficult concerto; that being by practicing the piece in a very slow tempo with a very steady beat (Hello Metronome)! Increase speed incrementally until the desired tempo is acquired.

For an authentic and exciting performance, I highly recommend the use of the piano accompaniment as well as arranging for the use of finger cymbals and a gong. In most schools, I am almost certain your music resource teacher will have finger cymbals as well as a miniature gong. These parts can be easily played by students and/or faculty members. Using these instruments will assuredly put this piece over the top on any concert you may give. May your fortune cookie read: "The wisest teacher will teach his/her students the "Song with A Gong"! That's truly "cymbal-ic".

Best wishes always
ASIAN FESTIVAL DANCE
for String Orchestra, Piano, and Percussion

Conductor Score
Performance Time: 1:35
By Frank M. Rodgers

ALLEGRO [a feeling of 2] \( \text{j} = 126 \)

1st Violin

2nd Violin

Viola

Cello

Bass

FINGER CYMBALS & GONG

Percussion

ALLEGRO [a feeling of 2] \( \text{j} = 126 \)

FINGER CYMBALS

Piano

Suggested lyrics for teaching this syncopated rhythm

THESE LYRICS APPEAR IN THE DESIGNATED STRING PARTS

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

Like me on face book - I'll Like you back - later

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ASIAN FESTIVAL DANCE
Conductor Score

1st Vln.

2nd Vln.

Vln.

Vcl.

Ch.

Perc.

Piano

FINGER CYMBALS

Make a slight separation between notes

Make a slight separation between notes

Make a slight separation between notes

1st Vln.

2nd Vln.

Vln.

Vcl.

Ch.

Perc.

Piano

13

11

12

10

9

9

9

9

9

9

9

9
Suggested lyrics for teaching this syncopated rhythm:

**ASIAN FESTIVAL DANCE**

Conductor Score

1st Vln.

2nd Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

Perc.

Piano

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1st Vln.

2nd Vln.

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

Perc.

Piano

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17 FINGER CYMBALS

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17

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21 S UDDENLY S OFT!

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22

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24

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21