

Pas de Deux

From the "Nutcracker Ballet"

Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky

Arranged for String Orchestra by

John O'Neill, ASCAP



Imagine
MUSIC

OMS1514

www.ImagineMusicPublishing.com

Composer's Notes

It is typical of many composers of ballet music to include a *Pas de Deux* (Dance for Two) somewhere in the score. Tchaikovsky, in his *Nutcracker Ballet* chose to place it before the final waltz to exploit the dramatic nature of this segment shortly before the curtain starts to come down. The original ballet was scored for a huge symphony orchestra with full woodwind, brass, percussion and string sections and the addition of 2 harps. Because of this orchestration, the piece is seldom, if ever heard outside of the complete ballet performance. I have attempted to condense all of the orchestra instruments of the original score in a way that would convey the drama of the piece and yet make it playable for just string players alone.

About the Composer

John O'Neill is a composer, mostly of music for young string players. His music is playable, fun, sometimes a little serious, and well received by performers and audience alike. A native of 'upstate' New York, he was born in the beautiful Finger Lakes Region south of Rochester, graduated from Red Jacket Central School in Manchester and received degrees in music theory and composition from Ithaca College and The Eastman School of Music where he studied with Warren Benson, Bernard Rogers, Kent Kennan and Wayne Barlow.

O'Neill has taught various aspects of music at the elementary, secondary, community college and university level for over thirty-five years and conducted community and semi-professional orchestras in New York State and the San Francisco Bay Area from 1961 to 1982. More recently, he has been a guest conductor of the Reno Philharmonic in performances of several of his compositions. He has been a yearly recipient of an ASCAP Plus Award since 1994 and has now, or has had in the past, scores in the catalogs of LudwigMasters, FJH, Grand Mesa, TRN, Alfred, Belwin, Belwin-Mills, Kendor, Warner Bros., Bourne, and Imagine Music. Since 2006, nine of his scores have received the J.W. Pepper "Editor's Choice Award." O'Neill's publications are now in the music libraries of middle schools, high schools and colleges throughout the United States and Canada.

O'Neill lives with his wife, Nelle (an award winning violin maker), their cat (Antonio Stradivari) and their dog (Charlee) in Douglas County, Nevada on a hillside overlooking the beautiful Carson Valley. They are founding directors (1992) of the Carson Valley Violin School, Carson Valley Sinfonia and Carson Valley Violins, the only full-service string shop between Reno and Las Vegas.

Pas de Deux

From the "Nutcracker" Ballet
For String Orchestra

Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Arranged by John O'Neill (ASCAP)

Andante maestoso

♩ = 72

Over the fingerboard, without accent

Violins I *mf*

Violins II *mf*

Violas

Cellos

Basses *mf* pizz.

The first system of the musical score for 'Pas de Deux' is in 4/4 time. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, and Basses. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The tempo is 'Andante maestoso' with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The first two staves, Violins I and II, have a dynamic marking of *mf* and a performance instruction 'Over the fingerboard, without accent'. The Violins I part consists of eighth-note runs. The Violins II part consists of eighth-note runs with some slurs. The Viola and Cello staves are empty, marked with a dash. The Basses part starts with a *mf* dynamic and a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) instruction, playing a simple eighth-note pattern.

3

p

p

mf

mf

mp

The second system of the musical score continues the piece. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, and Basses. The key signature remains one sharp (F#). The first two staves, Violins I and II, have a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The Viola and Cello staves have a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Basses part has a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Violins I and II parts continue with eighth-note runs. The Viola and Cello parts play a simple eighth-note pattern. The Basses part continues with a simple eighth-note pattern.

6

Musical score for measures 6-7. The score is written for five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third staff is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth and fifth staves are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing slurs and ties.

8

Musical score for measures 8-9. The score is written for five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third staff is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth and fifth staves are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing slurs and ties. The first staff has a *mp* dynamic marking. The second staff has a *mp* dynamic marking and a "Normal bowing" instruction. The third staff has a *mp* dynamic marking. The fourth staff has an "Ossia" instruction. The fifth staff has a *mp* dynamic marking.

10

Normal bowing

mf

mf

mf

Without acent

11

12

13

mf

Ossia

mf

mf

p

14

15