

Marsha Chusmir Shapiro

A Trio of Visually Impaired Rodents

For String Orchestra



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Composer's Notes

A Trio of Visually Impaired Rodents, or *Three Blind Mice*, is in the form of theme and variations. After a brief introduction, the theme is stated in the violins beginning in measure three, and becomes a two-part round with the entrance of the viola and cello in measure five, and a three-part round at measure fifteen. The first variation (measure 24) changes to a minor key in $\frac{3}{4}$ meter as the melody is performed in the cello and bass parts with countermelody above. Measure forty-four begins the second variation, a jazz rendition in common time in C Major. Variation three turns the tune into a Viennese Waltz. The Coda (measure 91) returns to the original key with a dramatic, Beethoven-like ending.

About the Composer

Marsha Chusmir Shapiro earned her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in music education from the Florida State University. Mrs. Shapiro was the winner of the 1985 National School Orchestra Association Composition Competition and was named 1994 Florida "Global Educator" by SIRS and the Florida Council for the Social Studies. She is the author of numerous orchestral, band and elementary school musical compositions. Marsha Chusmir Shapiro has been teaching in Florida since 1972.

Score

A Trio of Visually Impaired Rodents

for Strings

arr. by Marsha Chusmir Shapiro

$\text{♩} = 90$

The score is for a string quartet in D major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. It consists of five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The first system (measures 1-4) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Violin 1 has fingering III 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, 1 and a dynamic of *f*. Violin 2 has a dynamic of *f*. Viola has fingering optional (1234), 1L, 2L, 2H and a dynamic of *f*. Cello has a dynamic of *f*. Double Bass has a dynamic of *f*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the pattern. Violin 1 has a dynamic of *mf*. Violin 2 has a dynamic of *mf*. Viola has a dynamic of *f*. Cello has a dynamic of *f*. Double Bass has a dynamic of *f* and a *pizz.* marking. The third system (measures 9-12) features a new rhythmic pattern. Violin 1 has fingering III 1, 4, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4, 1 and a dynamic of *mf*. Violin 2 has a dynamic of *mf*. Viola has a dynamic of *mf*. Cello has a dynamic of *mf*. Double Bass has a dynamic of *mf*.

9

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. It features five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It begins with a sixteenth-note triplet, followed by eighth notes, and ends with a quarter note marked with a 'V' (accents) and a 'mp' (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The second staff is also in treble clef, mirroring the first staff's melody. The third staff is in bass clef, providing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth-note patterns. The fourth and fifth staves are also in bass clef, with the fourth staff playing a steady eighth-note bass line and the fifth staff playing a similar pattern with some rests.

13

mp

4X V

mp

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. It features five staves. The top staff is in treble clef, starting with a quarter note marked with a 'V' (accents), followed by eighth notes and a sixteenth-note triplet. The second staff is in treble clef, starting with a quarter note marked with a 'V' (accents), followed by eighth notes. The third staff is in bass clef, starting with a quarter note marked with a 'V' (accents), followed by eighth notes. The fourth staff is in bass clef, starting with a quarter note marked with a 'V' (accents) and a '4X' (four-fingered chord) above it, followed by eighth notes. The fifth staff is in bass clef, starting with a quarter note marked with a 'V' (accents), followed by eighth notes. The dynamic 'mp' (mezzo-piano) is indicated at the beginning of each staff.