**Beginning String Orchestra** 

Grade 1



# Pierrot's Bon Voyage

# Joseph Compello

### BAS47 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
/iolin I	8
/iolin II	8
/iolin III (Viola T.C.)	
/iola	
Cello	5
Bass	
Piano	1
Jarrator	

#### **Program Notes**

*Pierrot's Bon Voyage* is a simple theme and variations composition with narration. The narration is intended to engage a very young audience, and to allow a brief rest between movements for the orchestra. All instruments will perform the melody at some point in the composition.

The composition is straightforward and presents no insurmountable difficulties even for beginners. Tempi are at the discretion of the director. The metronome markings are merely a suggestion.

Students will require instruction for the following:

- G major scale (plus C# in 1st violins at mm. 19-21)
- 4 time
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> time
- pizzicato
- staccato
- fermata
- dynamics
- repeated eighth notes
- divisi
- repeat sign

The piano part provides a few accidentals not suitable for beginning string students.

Thank you for choosing this composition. Your comments are most welcome.

–Joseph Compello,Glen Arm, Maryland, 2010

#### **About the Composer**

Joseph Compello, a native of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, holds degrees in music education from the Peabody Conservatory and Towson University. During his 31 year career as an instrumental music teacher in Maryland, he wrote numerous compositions for his students. In 1994, Carl Fischer began publishing many of these classroom-tested pieces including his debut publication Cadets on Parade, and the 1996 best-seller Rock to the Max, Mr. Sax. Compello's journey from school teacher to internationally published composer was recently chronicled in the Baltimore Sun. His music is now performed worldwide in venues ranging from school concerts to Carnegie Hall. Now retired from teaching with over 100 published works to his credit, Compello continues to draw on his extensive background in music education to compose new music exclusively for Carl Fischer's Performance Series.

## Pierrot's Bon Voyage

(Theme and Variations)

JOSEPH COMPELLO

This is a story with music. There was once a young lad named Pierrot. That's a French name which is similar to Pete in English, or Pedro in Spanish. Pierrot is famous the world over because of a song written about him. Listen to it. Have you heard it before?

(Ensemble plays Introduction and Theme)





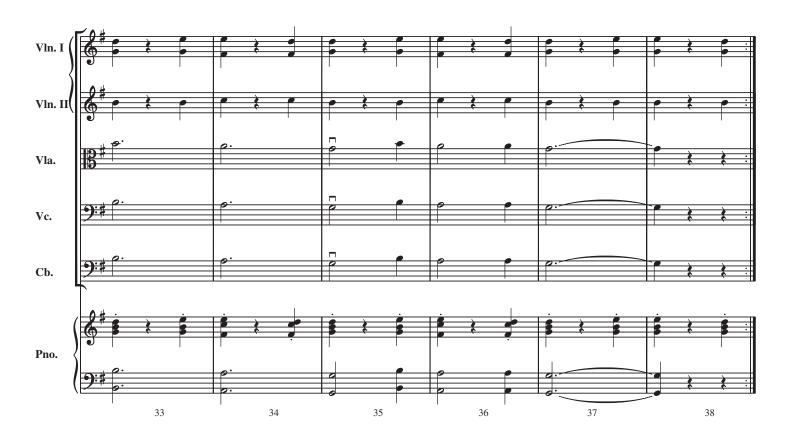


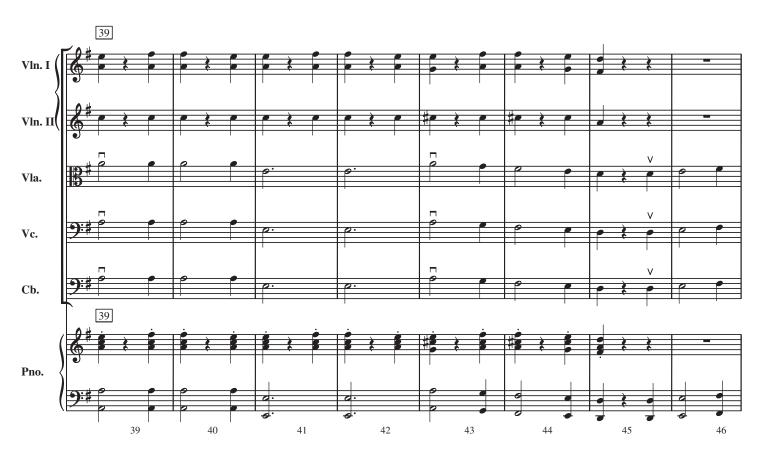
Pierrot loved to be on or near the water. He tried to learn everything he could about the oceans and rivers of the world, so that when he was old enough, he could travel to see them. Once he read about a beautiful city where the streets were actually waterways, and the taxi cabs were little boats. It's not a make-believe city. It's a real city called Venice, Italy. The waterways there are called canals, and the little boats are called gondolas.

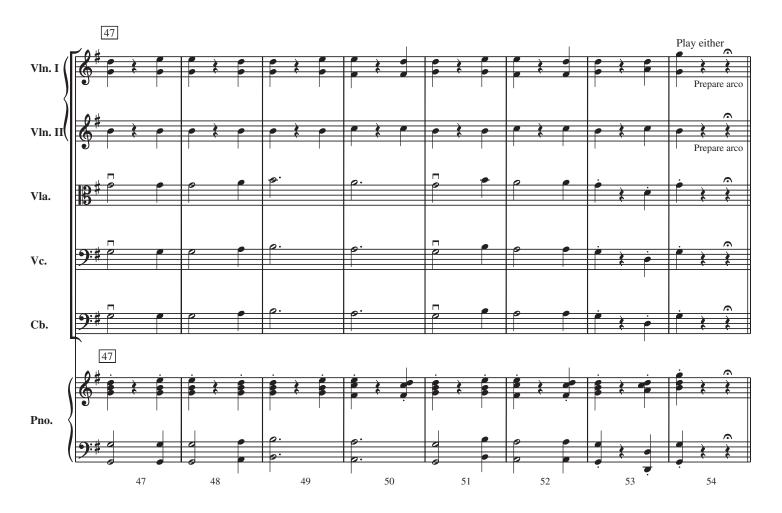
Gondoliers, who are the men that row the boats, often sing a type of song known as a barcarolle. The music you will hear now is a barcarolle. Can you feel the swaying motion of the gondola as it rocks from side to side in the water? Can you hear Pierrot's tune?

(Ensemble plays Variation 1: *Pierrot in Venice in a Gondola*)







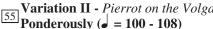


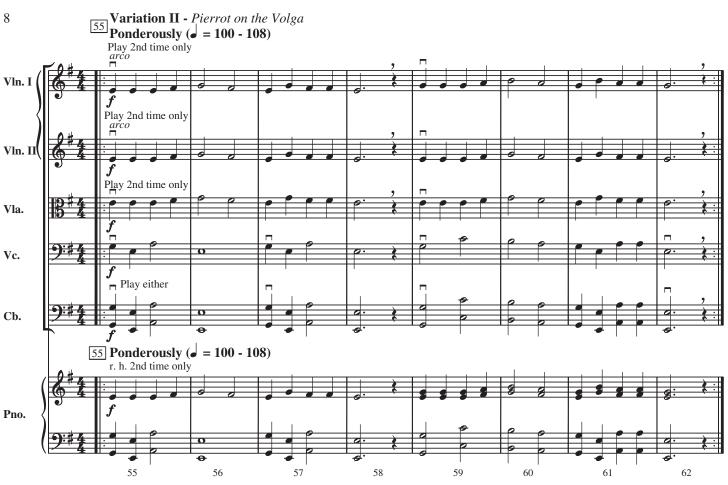
Another time Pierrot read about the longest river in Russia. It is called the Volga. There are many cities along the Volga. Hundreds of years ago, boats called barges carried grain and many other kinds of supplies from city to city, up and down the Volga. Sometimes the barges had to be pulled with ropes by very strong sailors on shores. To keep their pulling in time with each other, the sailors would sing songs called chanties.

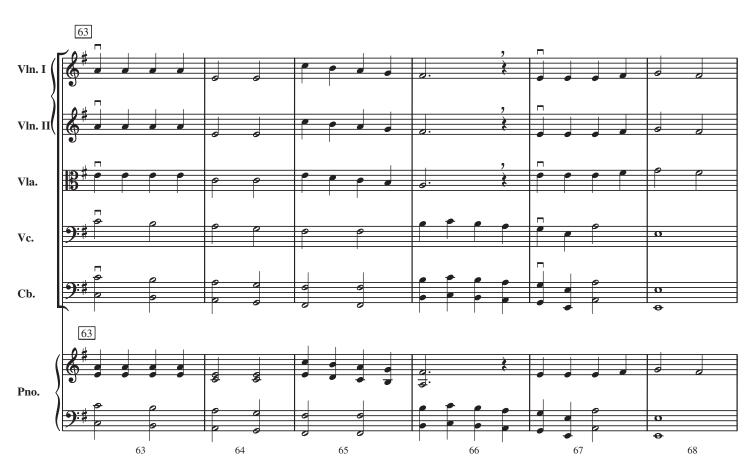
The most famous Russian chanty is known as *The Song of the Volga Boatmen*. Listen to it now. Does it sound as though the sailors are doing hard work? Can you hear Pierrot's song with the chanty?

(Ensemble plays *Pierrot on the Volga*)









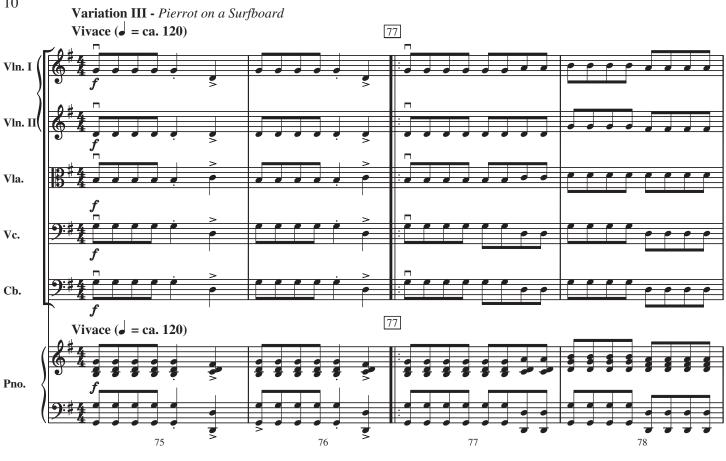


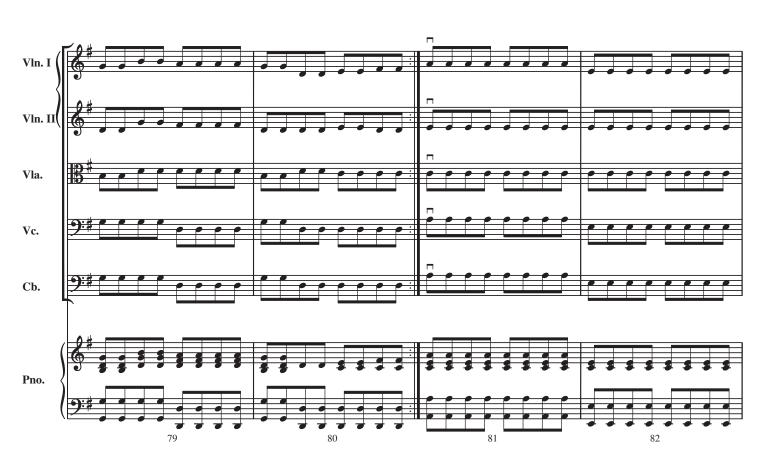
Pierrot also hoped that some day he would visit the U.S.A., because it was between two great oceans, the Atlantic and the Pacific. He was fascinated by the stories of the great waves in these oceans and the sport called surfing. "Just imagine," though Pierrot! "A person could actually stand up on a surfboard while he was on top of the highest wave imagineable." Pierrot hoped that one day he would ride a surfboard on such a wave. "How thrilling it will be," he thought, "to speed down that wave with only a surfboard under my feet."

Now let's listen to this very fast version of Pierrot's song. Does it sound as if Pierrot is having an exciting time riding a surfboard on a giant wave?

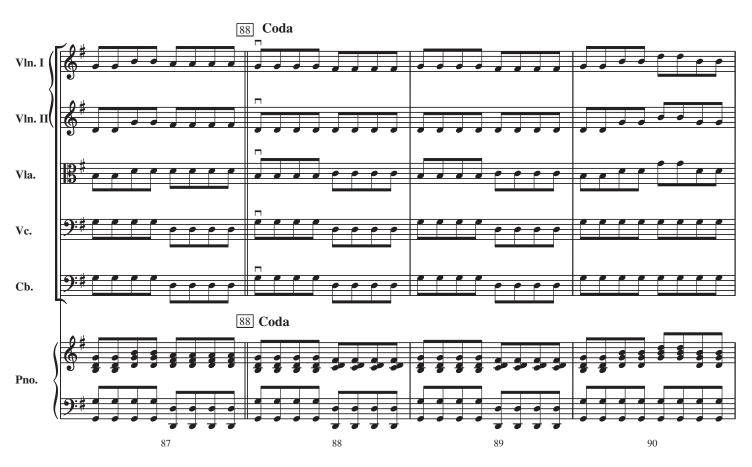
(Ensemble plays *Pierrot on a Surfboard*)













Thank you for being such an attentive audience. The boys and girls of the \_\_\_\_\_School Orchestra hope that you have enjoyed the music and the story of Pierrot.

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