# **ISPY**

### KATIE O'HARA LABRIE

#### INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass
- 1 Piano (opt.)





#### THE COMPOSER

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a composer, conductor, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and a Master of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. Her compositions have received many accolades including frequent selection as J.W. Pepper Editors' Choice, as well as performances at the Midwest Clinic and

American String Teachers Association Conference. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40," for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players, and co-creator of "the Big IDEA" practice method. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam.

#### **ABOUT THE MUSIC**

Orchestra members transform into secret agents as we spy around corners, snoop stealthily like ninjas, and burst out in surprise attacks. We will explore a wide range of dynamics and styles by alternating soft staccato, plucky pizzicato, and strong accented notes that add to the cinematic feel of this sneaky sensation.

#### PERFORMANCE NOTES

This piece is written in only three parts with second violins doubling violas, and cellos doubling bass. The more challenging sections are likely to be the rhythmic layering at measure 45 and 53. You might have students try counting using a fun phrase such as "super secret ninjas" where "su-per" and "se-cret" are two eighth note pairs, and "nin-jas" are the quarter note pairs.

Please encourage your students to overemphasize the dynamics and articulations to really highlight the story of the music (you can tell them) said so).

As an educator, I'm all about making music work for the different needs of students. If you have students ready to slur, feel free to add slurs in the first 4 bars (slurring and/or tying two half notes at a time). Need more of a strong closer? Feel free to make the last note a bowed fortissimo rather than the pizzicato pianissimo (and add open E in the violins into the mix).

–Katie O'Hara LaBrie

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KATIE O'HARA LABRIE (ASCAP)













