PINE MOUNTAIN

KATIE O'HARA LABRIE







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

Get ready to stomp your feet and embrace the country vibe with this original fiddle tune. *Pine Mountain* uses a fun pentatonic melody and repeated rhythmic patterns along with cool effects such as double stops, chopping with the bow, and slapping the bass to enhance the musical styling and enduring spirit of the Appalachian Mountains.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

I wrote the piece with a fun rhythmic motive using the name of the commissioning party...and once you hear it, you'll never hear the piece any other way. I encourage you to use this with your students, or make your own version to fit your school. You can always go with "Oh! I love Or-ches-tra" if your school name doesn't magically fit into 3 syllables.

The piece also uses a couple techniques that are explained below.

Chop-Pull: Set your bow down into both strings hard creating a percussive "chop" sound for the "x"s and then pull your bow for the regular notes. Lift and repeat. If you are not familiar with the technique, I encourage you to watch some videos on chopping with your students. Though chops are often followed by upbows, for ease at this level I went with a more simple chop-pull effect using down bows.

Bass Slap: Use the right hand to slap the strings flat against the fingerboard, creating a percussive effect.

Students will need to put their bows down on a stand or in a quiver to allow for the freedom to perform the slaps.

Cello/Bass Spin: This isn't written in – but it would be totally fun to have the lower strings spin their instruments at some point (carefully!) – perhaps at measure 43 (and again basses at measure 53).

Bass cues are provided in measures 31 and 33. These are only to be played in the absence of bass players. This is also included in the accompanying piano part.

–Katie O'Hara LaBrie

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