

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 1½
Full Conductor Score
SO496F

Chuk Cushinery

A Tale of Three Tails



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



The Composer



Dr. Chuk Cushinery made his living playing violin in the Midwest part of the U.S. until becoming the orchestra director at Clark High School (Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada) in 1997. His program began with 39 string players and grew to an enrollment of over 400. After 28 years of service, he retired from the Clark County School District in 2022. While at Clark High School, the Clark Chamber Orchestra won the Grand National Orchestra Championship at the ASTA Conference in Salt Lake City. The Clark Orchestra program was selected to perform at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in December of 2016 and 2019. In addition to his accomplishments as orchestra director at Clark High School, Chuk founded the Clark guitar, piano, and electronic music programs. Currently, he is the director of the Nevada School of the Arts Chamber Orchestra.

Chuk has served as president of the Nevada Chapter of the American String Teachers Association twice, served as president of The Nevada Music Educators Association, has chaired local and state honors groups, has been on the staff of the National High School Honors Orchestra and is a member of numerous committees. He is a two-time top ten finalist for the Grammy Music Educator of the year award.

In 2017, Dr. Cushinery became an Education Clinician for the Conn-Selmer Corporation and began presenting clinics around the country. Additionally, he has conducted honor groups and All-State orchestras across the United States. He was a clinician at the 2024 Midwest Clinic and presented a topic regarding neglected masterworks for school orchestras. Chuk currently dedicates his time working on myriad projects he never could complete as a full-time classroom teacher – writing that method book, composing, arranging, presenting clinics, conducting, and his most ambitious project: finally adding almost thirty years of experience and data to his website, chukcush.com.

The Composition

A Tale of Three Tails is a five-movement suite that tells the story about three homeless dogs who found their way into the composer's family. Each dog tells its own tale and each has a happy ending! With narrator, Movement I introduces the story. Movements II, III, and IV focus on the story of each dog, and the final movement celebrates their new-found family.

Performance Suggestions

This work is designed to be performed as a complete five-movement suite with narration. Total performance time is just under 12 minutes. Additional performance options are recommended as listed below.

Performance Options:

Option One [Narration Required]: I. Introduction, Movement II, III, or IV, and V. Family

Option Two [Narration Optional]: Perform any single movement II, III, or IV

Option Three [Narration Optional]: Perform any combination you wish.

The narration introduces each movement and can be spoken by one person for the entire work or can be shared by more than one person. The narration is great for students to perform, or it might be fun to invite a special guest.

Movements I, IV, and V include easy triangle and bell parts. The parts enhance the music in a special way; however, they are not required. String students can certainly step up to perform those parts as desired.



Five images featured in this publication are also provided online in the **Kjos Multimedia Library**. These photographs (PDFs) are available to download for use as projections during rehearsals and performances as desired. Go to kjos.com, click on the KML icon, then click "STRINGS."

Instrumentation List (Set C)

8 – 1 st Violin	5 – 3 rd Violin (Viola T.C)	5 – Cello	2 – Narrator	1 – Rehearsal Piano
8 – 2 nd Violin	5 – Viola	5 – String Bass	2 – Percussion	1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available. To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, go to www.kjos.com.

Learning Bank: Glossary

Arco	play with the bow.
'	Bow lift. Lift the bow and reset at the frog with a down bow.
Col legno	play with the wood of the bow.
Divisi (div.)	two parts are written on one staff. Part of the section plays the top note and the bottom note is played by the others.
Fall	the quick lowering of a pitch after the note is played. Similar to a glissando.
Fermata ♮	sustain (hold) a note longer than its written value.
Glissando (gliss.)	sliding up or down from a pitch while maintain the sound.
Legato	smooth and connected.
L.H. pizz. (+)	pizzicato played with the left hand, usually the 3rd or 4th finger.
Molto rit.	Italian term meaning to slow down very much. Rit. is the abbreviated form of ritardando.
Pizzicato(pizz.)	play by plucking the string with a finger of the right hand.
Unison (unis.)	all players play the same part.

This Learning Bank: Glossary is also provided in each student part.

A Tale of Three Tails

Full Conductor Score
Total perf. time—11:30



Chuk Cushinery
(ASCAP)

I. Introduction

1 **Slowly but not too slow** (♩ = 80)

2 3 4

Narrator* A. B. C. D.

Violins 1 2 *p* *pp* *pp*

Viola** *p* *pp*

Cello *p*

String Bass *p*

Triangle *mf*

Bells *p*

Slowly but not too slow (♩ = 80)

Piano (Rehearsal) *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*Narrator speaks as indicated. Hold fermata to allow narration to finish.

A. "A Tale of Three Tails" is a story about the creation of a family.

B. True, the main characters wear full time fur coats and have magnificent tails,

C. but their shared journey allows them to find the comfort and security that families bring.

D. Imagine how you would feel if you were thrust out of your home, into the world, alone, and frightened.

E. This is a musical tale of three tails that would eventually wag as one.

**A part for 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.) is included.

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5 6 7 8 **rit.**

Narr. E.

1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Tri.

Bells

Pno. *mf* **rit.** *mp*

Chuk Cushinery
(ASCAP)



Allegro (♩ = 112)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Piano (Rehearsal)

Allegro (♩ = 112)

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Chin Up
Confident March

5

1 Vlns. *f*

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Pno. *f*

6 V 7 V 8 V 9

10 V 11 V 12 V 13 14

Vla. H3

13

8

15 16 17 18 19

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

div. - 1/2 col legno, 1/2 ord.

p

mf

21

A Fortunate Cookie

25 unis. ord. 26 27 28 29

Vlns. 1 *f* unis. ord.

Vlns. 2 *f* unis. ord.

Vla. *f* unis. ord.

Cello *f* unis. ord.

Str. Bass *f* unis. ord.

Pno. 25 29

30 31 32 33 34 V

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. 33

37 Finding Family

35 36 37 38 39

Vlns. 1 *mf* gentle legato

Vlns. 2 *mf* gentle legato

Vla. H3 *mf* gentle legato

Cello *gentle legato* *mf*

Str. Bass *gentle legato* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

40 41 42 43 44 45

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello *V*

Str. Bass *V*

Pno. *V*

This musical score is for measures 46 through 50 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. It is arranged for a string quartet (Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass) and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes measure numbers 46, 47, 48, 49, and 50. A large '49' is prominently displayed in the center of the page, indicating the current measure. The dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte). The string parts feature various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

51 *Jubilant Puppy March*

1 Vlns. *f* 52 53 54 **55** 56

2 Vlns. *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

51 **55**

Pno. *f*

57 58 59 60 61 62 **molto rit.**

Vlns. 1 **ff**

Vlns. 2 **ff**

Vla. H3 **ff**

Cello V **ff**

Str. Bass V **ff**

Pno. **molto rit.** **ff**



Siempre has the most magnificent tail.

III. Sneaky Mr. Bix

Full Conductor Score
Approx. perf. time—2:50

Chuk Cushinery
(ASCAP)



Narrator: Lost, cold, and frightened, this little pup was lucky to find his way into a welcoming classroom. Although a search was conducted, no one came forward to claim him. In the meantime, the pup became fast friends with Siempre. Welcome home, Mr. Bix! But watch out. Mr. Bix is tiny and mighty! He earned his name by his whimsical character and ability to quickly grab unattended toys and bones and claim them as his own.

Allegro (♩ = 124)

5 Searching for Home

Violins 1 & 2: *p* Shhh, *mf*

Viola: *p* Shhh, *mf*

Cello: *p* Shhh, *mf*

String Bass: *mf*, *pizz.*, *mf*

Allegro (♩ = 124)

5

Piano (Rehearsal): *mf*, Shhh

7 8 9 10 11 12

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

13 14 15 16 17 18

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

pizz.

mf

pp

p

pp

p

17

17

The musical score is for measures 7 through 18 of a piece. It features six staves: Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Piano. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). Measures 7-12 show a rhythmic pattern with eighth and quarter notes. In measure 9, the Viola and Violin 2 parts have a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking with a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) dynamic. Measures 13-16 continue the pattern. Measures 17 and 18 show a change in dynamics, with 'pp' (pianissimo) and 'p' (piano) markings appearing in the Violin 1, Piano, and String Bass parts. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is diagonally across the page.

19 20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. 1 *mf* *f* *p*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *f* Shhh

Vla. *mf* *f* Shhh

Cello *f* *mf*

Str. Bass *mf* *f* *p*

Pno. *mf* *f* *p*

25 26 27 28 29 30

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. *mf*

31 32 33 34 35 36

Vlns. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f* L.H. pizz. + +

Vlns. 2 *f* *mf* *p* *f* L.H. pizz. + +

Vla. *f* *mf* *p* *f* L.H. pizz. + +

Cello *f* *mf* *p* *f* L.H. pizz. + +

Str. Bass *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Pno. *f* *mf* *p* *f*

37 Is This Family?

Vlns. 1 *mf* arco *f*

Vlns. 2 *mf* arco *f*

Vla. *mf* arco *f*

Cello *mf* arco *f*

Str. Bass *mf* arco *f*

Pno. *mf* *f*

45 This Seems to be the Place

43 44 46 47 48

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 Shhh

Vla. Shhh

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Pno. *mf*

45

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vlns. 1 *(mf)* *p*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *(mf)* *p*

Vla. Shhh *(mf)* *p*

Cello *(mf)* *p*

Str. Bass *(mf)* *p*

Pno. *(mf)* *p*

53

57 Family Found

55 56 58 *Siempre!* 59 60

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

61 62 63 64 65 66

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

x4 *x4*

67 68 69 70 71 72 V pizz. Shhh

Vlns. 1 *f* *mf* *p* *f* *pizz.* *Shhh*

Vlns. 2 *f* *mf* *p* *f* *pizz.* *Shhh*

Vla. *f* *mf* *p* *f* *pizz.* *Shhh*

Cello *f* *mf* *p* *f* *pizz.* *Shhh*

Str. Bass *f* *mf* *p* *f* *pizz.* *Shhh*

Pno. *f* *mf* *p* *f* *Shhh*

69



Mr. Bix became fast friends with Siempre.

IV. Grinning Gus

Full Conductor Score
Approx. perf. time—2:22

Chuk Cushinery
(ASCAP)



Narrator: Grinning Gus is the youngest member of the family. While homeless, Gus was adopted after living off the generosity of construction workers. Can you believe he survived on corn dogs?! One day, a kind construction worker set out to find Gus a forever home and fate brought him to the family. That grin on Gus's face is the real deal. He just wants to be loved and wanted. He is filled with boundless energy, immense love, and can be found at the center of every party.

Allegro (♩ = 124)

1 2 3 4

Violins 1

Violins 2

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Triangle

Allegro (♩ = 124)

Piano (Rehearsal)

musical score for the piece "Grinning Gus", featuring Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Triangle, and Piano (Rehearsal). The tempo is marked Allegro (♩ = 124). The score is in 4/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *pizz.* and *mf*. The score is divided into four measures, numbered 1 through 4. The Piano part is marked as a rehearsal.

5 Just Looking for My Corn Dogs

5

1

Vl. 1

mf

2

Vl. 2

3

Vla.

4

Cello

p legato

5

Str. Bass

6

Tri.

7

Pno.

8

9

10

11

12

fall

mf

13 14 15 16

Vlns. 1 arco
2 *mf* arco *gliss.*

Vla. *mf* *fall*

Cello *mf* *fall*

Str. Bass *mf*

Tri. *mf*

13 *fall*

Pno.

17 18 19 20

Vlns. 1
2 *gliss.*

Vla. *fall*

Cello *fall*

Str. Bass

Tri. *mf*

17 *fall*

Pno.

The musical score is for a string quartet and piano. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system covers measures 13 to 16, and the second system covers measures 17 to 20. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The instruments are Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Double Bass (Str. Bass), Triangle (Tri.), and Piano (Pno.). The score includes various musical notations such as arco, gliss., mf, and fall. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is visible across the page.

21 Where Did the Corndog People Go?

1 Vlns. *mf* *legato*

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass *arco* *mf*

Pno.

22 23 24

1 Vlns. *arco*

2 Vlns. *mf* *legato*

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno.

25 26 27 28 4 0

29 30 31 32

Vlns. 1 *p* *mf*

Vlns. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Cello *p* *mf*

Str. Bass *gliss.* (2) *mf*

Tri.

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

gliss. (2)

IV

33 Finding Family (Mr. Bix!) (Siempre!) arco

34 35 36 37 38

Vlns. 1 *p legato* *mf* *f*

Vlns. 2 *p legato* *f*

Vla. *p legato* *f*

Cello *p legato* *f*

Str. Bass *(Siempre!)* *mf* *f*

Tri.

Pno. *p* *mf* *f*

(Siempre!)

(Mr. Bix!) *(Siempre!)*

39 40 41 42 43 44

Vlins. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Pno.

41

45 46 47 48 49 50

Vlins. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Pno.

45 49 Home Sweet Home...

51 52 *fall* 53 pizz. 54

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Pno.

53 54

55 56 57 58

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Pno.

57

gliss.

p

gliss.

p

59 60 61 62 63 4

Vlns. 1 *mf* arco

Vlns. 2

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf* arco

Str. Bass *mf*

Tri. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

64 0 65 66 67 4

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Tri.

Pno. *f*

68 69 70 71 72

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Pno.

mf *p* *f* *rit.*

gliss. (*o*)

gliss. (*o*)

gliss. (*o*)



Agility jumping by all three pups
Teamwork at its Finest!



Totem Pole Pups
(Totem = from an Algonquin word meaning kinship, group, and close connection)

V. Family

Full Conductor Score
Approx. perf. time—2:22

Chuk Cushinery
(ASCAP)

1 **Slowly but not too slow** (♩ = 80)

2 3 4

Narrator

1 2

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Triangle

Bells

Piano (Rehearsal)

Slowly but not too slow (♩ = 80)

Narrator speaks as indicated. Ensemble holds for dialogue at fermati.

- A. The family is now complete.
- B. Each pup is allowed to be who they are.
- C. They play, eat, and sometimes tussle,
- D. but they have formed a bond that will never be broken.
- E. Let's listen as the pups revere their new-found family and then musically join in a celebration.

5 6 7 8 **rit.**

Narr. E.

1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Tri.

Bells

Pno. *mf* **rit.** *mp*

The musical score for measures 5 through 8 of 'A Tale of Three Tails' is presented. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked 'rit.' (ritardando) starting at measure 7. The dynamics are marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte) for measures 5 and 6, and 'mp' (mezzo-piano) for measure 8. The instruments and their parts are: Narrator (spoken word 'E.'), Violins 1 & 2 (melodic lines with 'V' marks), Viola (melodic line), Cello (melodic line), String Bass (melodic line), Triangle (percussion), Bells (percussion), and Piano (chordal accompaniment). A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Moderato ($\text{♩} = 90-92$)

Family Hymn

9 10 11 12 13

Vlns. 1 *p*

Vlns. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p*

Str. Bass *p*

Tri.

Bells *mf*

9 Moderato ($\text{♩} = 90-92$)

Pno. *p*

14 15 16 17 18 4

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

Tri.

Bells

17

Pno. *mf*

19 20 21 22

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Bells

Pno.

21

Siempre!
Families Grow Together
Faster

23 24 25 26

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Bells

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

pizz.

mf

mf

25

Siempre!
Faster

The image displays a musical score for two pieces, "Mr. Bix!" and "Gus!". The score is written for a full orchestra and piano.

Mr. Bix! (Measures 27-30):

- Measures 27-28:** The Violins (Vlns.) play a melody in G major. The Viola (Vla.) and Cello (Cello) play a bass line. The String Bass (Str. Bass) plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Triangle (Tri.) and Bells play a rhythmic pattern. The Piano (Pno.) plays a bass line.
- Measure 29:** The title "Mr. Bix!" is written above the Violins. The Violins play a pizzicato (pizz.) chord. The Viola and Cello play a bass line. The String Bass plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Triangle and Bells play a rhythmic pattern. The Piano plays a bass line.
- Measure 30:** The Violins play a pizzicato (pizz.) chord. The Viola and Cello play a bass line. The String Bass plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Triangle and Bells play a rhythmic pattern. The Piano plays a bass line.

Gus! (Measures 31-34):

- Measures 31-32:** The Violins (Vlns.) play a melody in G major. The Viola (Vla.) and Cello (Cello) play a bass line. The String Bass (Str. Bass) plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Triangle (Tri.) and Bells play a rhythmic pattern. The Piano (Pno.) plays a bass line.
- Measure 33:** The title "Gus!" is written above the Violins. The Violins play a melody. The Viola and Cello play a bass line. The String Bass plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Triangle and Bells play a rhythmic pattern. The Piano plays a bass line.
- Measure 34:** The Violins play a melody. The Viola and Cello play a bass line. The String Bass plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Triangle and Bells play a rhythmic pattern. The Piano plays a bass line.

37 Families Dance Together

35 36 38

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Bells

Pno.

arco $\vee$

4

pizz.

f

f

37

41 Family Hymn

39 40 42

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Tri.

Bells

Pno.

arco

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

41

43 44 45 46

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f* H3

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Tri.

Bells

Pno. *f*

47 48 49 50

Vlns. 1 *molto rit.*

Vlns. 2 *molto rit.*

Vla. *molto rit.*

Cello *molto rit.*

Str. Bass *molto rit.*

Tri.

Bells

Pno. *molto rit.*



The End!