

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 3
Full Conductor Score
SO509F

Jeffrey S. Bishop
Blue Taters



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



The Composer



Dr. Jeffrey S. Bishop is an accomplished and award-winning composer of orchestra, band, and choir music. With nearly 100 published pieces to his credit, Dr. Bishop's music has been performed by ensembles all over the world. Jeffrey has nearly one hundred instrumental pieces published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Alfred Publishing Company, Wingert-Jones Music, and C-Alan Publications. Jeffrey's music is marked by strong pedagogical influences and a traditional style that is at times reminiscent of the Renaissance. In contrast, his approach to bringing rock music into the string world has been significant and noteworthy. He values melody and harmonic structure and strives to engage the audience as much as the performers through his music.

A dedicated music educator, Dr. Bishop retired from the Shawnee Mission School District (Kansas City Metro Area) after 30 years, during which he served as an orchestra teacher at every academic level. He continues writing music on commission, spends more time with family and friends, and tries to keep his LEGO® habit under control. For more information about his creative endeavors, visit jeffreysbishop.com.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

8 – 1st Violin
 8 – 2nd Violin
 5 – Viola
 5 – Cello
 5 – String Bass
 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.

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The Composition

When the East Lansing (Michigan) Band and Orchestra Parents Association commissioned this piece, the directors wanted a “sequel to **Orange Jam**.” **Orange Jam** is one of the most-performed pieces in the orchestral “rock” genre, so Bishop was happy to oblige. **Blue Taters** is a straight-ahead rock piece, but it has a couple of techniques that may be new to audiences. “Chops” is a percussive effect, produced by the bow hitting the strings in such a way as to not produce pitch, but more of a “scratch” (think old school DJ). “Knocks” are exactly what they sound like – the musician knocks the instrument with their knuckles. When performed correctly, the orchestra can accompany itself with a drum set sound.

Rehearsal Suggestions

All the “chops” in this piece are played on open strings with double-stops. Chops are played by pushing the bow to an almost 45-degree angle to the bridge and striking the strings with a very fast wrist motion (tell students to think of flicking water from their fingers). The bow hair faces away from the player. The tempo is such that the eighth note chops can either be played down-up, or down-down if you want a grittier effect. Please note that you are not trying to get the specific pitches of the open strings; you are just aiming for a percussive effect. The knocks in the bass part are played before and after open strings, allowing the musician to reach over the top of the bass and literally rap their knuckles on the front of the instrument. It can take a little practice to balance the bass such that they can play the open notes and knock, but once learned, it is a great effect that’s fun to perform. Lastly, overdo the dynamic contrasts. This is not a subtle piece. It is very loud overall, so when the dynamics drop, make sure it is a huge contrast. But, and this is the most important thing, make sure the students have fun playing **Blue Taters!**

Inquiring Minds Want to Know...

Blue potatoes are vibrant in color and are good for you, too! Their blue color comes from anthocyanins, which are antioxidants also found in blueberries. Originating in the Andes Mountains of South America, they were cultivated over 7,000 years ago. Some 300 varieties of blue Andean potatoes are found in the Andes. Spanish explorers brought blue potatoes to Europe in the mid-1500s. Blue potatoes have a rich, nutty, and slightly sweet flavor. So delicious when roasted, mashed, or used for salads!

BLUE TATERS

FULL CONDUCTOR SCORE

JEFFREY S. BISHOP
(ASCAP)

APPROX. PERFORMANCE TIME - 3:10

MASH 'EM (♩ = 88)

Musical score for measures 1-3 of 'Blue Taters'. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'MASH 'EM' with a quarter note equal to 88 beats per minute. The music features a driving, rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings like 'mf'.

Musical score for measures 4-6 of 'Blue Taters'. This section continues the string ensemble. It includes performance instructions such as 'NON DIV.' (non-diviso) and 'GLISS.' (glissando) with a '3' above the notes, indicating a triplet glissando. A box containing the number '5' is placed above the first measure of this section. The notation includes various rhythmic values and articulation marks.

7 8 9

1 VLNS. 1 SIM.

2 VLNS. 2 SIM.

VLA. SIM.

CELLO

STR. BASS

10 11 12

1 VLNS. 1

2 VLNS. 2

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

13

14 15

1 VLNS. *sub. p*

2 VLNS. *sub. p*

VLA. *sub. p*

CELLO *sub. p*

STR. BASS *sub. p*

16 17 18

1 VLNS. *mf*

2 VLNS. *mf*

VLA. *mf*

CELLO *mf*

STR. BASS *mf*

25 26 27

1 VLNS.

2 VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

28 29 30

1 VLNS.

2 VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

NON DIV.

(NON DIV.)

ff

33

31 32

1 VLNS.

2 VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

sub. pp

GLISS.

sub. p

34 35 36 37

1 VLNS.

2 VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

p

p

p

-1 4 0

m²

38 39 40

1 VLNS.

2

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

41 42 43

1 VLNS.

2

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

44

1

VLNS.

2

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

45

46

ff

NON DIV.

47

1

VLNS.

2

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

48

49

50

mf

51 53

1 VLNS.

2 VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

NON DIV.

GLISS.

54 55 SIM. 56

1 VLNS.

2 VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

SIM.

57

1

2

VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

NON DIV.

58

59

SUB. ME

60

61

62 V

1

2

VLNS.

VLA.

CELLO

STR. BASS

CHOPS

CHOPS

KNOCK

GLISS.

GLISS.

V

63 64 V 65 V

1

VLNS. 1

2

VLN. 2

CELLO

STR. BASS

66 67 68

1

VLNS. 1

2

VLN. 2

CELLO

STR. BASS

SAMPLE

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