

Tour of Ireland

Traditional Irish Melodies arranged by
Caryn Wiegand Neidhold

For **STRING ORCHESTRA**

The Wren (An Dro)
The Kerry Polka
The Wind That Shakes the Barley

Full Score

Instrumentation

1 Full Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
5 Viola
5 Cello
5 Contrabass
1 Bodhrán (or Tom)
(optional)

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About the Arranger

Caryn Wiegand Neidhold is a composer and arranger for students through professional ensembles. Her focus includes arrangements of hidden classical “gems” and composing music for eclectic styles, including fiddle, rock, and jazz. With an emphasis on learning technique through literature, her music always distributes musical challenges to all string sections - go violas!

Caryn’s background includes extensive work as a middle school educator, Suzuki teacher, and youth symphony conductor and coach. In addition, she has years of performance experience as a violist and violinist with orchestras, including the Reno Phil, Reno Chamber Orchestra, New World Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, and the Fairbanks Symphony. Having fun at fiddle camp, in rock bands, and in jazz bands fuels her love for bringing diverse music to young string orchestras. Ms. Neidhold enjoys composing commissioned works for all levels, writing articles for music education publications and presenting seminars for string educators.

Program Notes

Take a musical tour of the Emerald Isle. Three popular Irish tunes come to life for string orchestra with melody in all parts. From silky-slow to fiery-fast, **Tour of Ireland** begins with the stately and poignant, *The Wren*. Next, the tempo jumps for a buoyant *Kerry Polka*, followed by a racing *The Wind That Shakes the Barley*, with a final tempo push to a flying ending.

Performance Notes

These three Irish melodies include occasional ornaments to enhance the Irish character. Ornaments are typically used for beat emphasis, whether on or off the beat. Classical players often take the ornamentation too precisely and emphasize the individual notes rather than the beat itself. The terminology for ornaments is not consistent in the fiddle tradition, so it’s possible to adopt the ornamentation terms from almost any comprehensive source on Irish ornaments.

The types of ornaments vary from region to region and likely originated with the bagpipe’s repeated notes. These notes on a bagpipe cannot be separated, so articulations evolved using ornaments, and fiddle players imitated these sounds. Encourage students to play fast ornaments with a slight accent.

Most fiddle traditions use little to no vibrato, and the same goes for Irish music. Use minimal vibrato throughout.

Two-measure transitions include *accelerandos* to arrive at the next tune’s tempo. Often students will accomplish this *accelerando* if they are comfortable with the new tempo and have a goal in mind when the conductor leads them to that tempo.

The optional percussion part calls for a Bodhrán but may also be played on a tom or snare with the snare off. Bodhráns are surprisingly affordable compared to many percussion instruments. Including this instrument may benefit your performance as it provides an authentically Irish sound.

Enjoy touring Ireland with these three wonderful tunes.

Editor’s Note

Orchestral bowings and fingerings can be highly subjective and personal. The choices a string editor makes are designed to be pedagogically appropriate for specific grade levels while facilitating student musicality and honoring composer intent. The editorial additions in the following composition will provide guidance “right out of the box” for the non-string player and suggest some options for the advanced string specialist. Enjoy!

J. Cameron Law, String Editor

11

simile

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf

Drum

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

19

simile

Vln. I

Vln. II

soli

Vla.

f

Vc.

mf

Cb.

frog

simile

mp

Drum

24

27

accel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

The Kerry Polka**Polka vivace** ♩=136

29

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

Drum *mf*

34

1. 2.

38 *accel.*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

Tour of Ireland
The Wind That Shakes the Barley

7

Presto Reel ♩=176+

40

solo
Vln. I *mf*

solo
Vln. II *mf*

solo non div.
Vla. *mf*

solo
Vc. *mf* *tutti*

solo
Cb. *mf* *tutti*

mf
Drum

44

tutti
Vln. I *mf*

tutti
Vln. II *mf*

tutti non div.
Vla. *mf*

tutti
Vc. *mf*

tutti
Cb. *mf*

mf
Drum

Tour of Ireland

48

solo *tutti* *solo*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

53

tutti *accel.*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

58 Prestissimo

Score for measures 58-65, marked **Prestissimo**. The score includes parts for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Cb., and Drum. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is **Prestissimo**. The score begins with a forte (**f**) dynamic. Vln. I plays a rapid eighth-note melody with accents. Vln. II provides harmonic support with dotted rhythms. Vla. and Vc. play a similar dotted pattern. Cb. and Drum provide a steady eighth-note pulse. The section concludes with a repeat sign at measure 65.

Score for measures 63-66, marked **66**. The score includes parts for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Cb., and Drum. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is **Prestissimo**. The score begins with a forte (**f**) dynamic. Vln. I continues the rapid eighth-note melody. Vln. II plays a dotted rhythm. Vla. and Vc. play a dotted pattern. Cb. and Drum provide a steady eighth-note pulse. The section concludes with a repeat sign at measure 66.

68

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

This musical score block contains measures 68 through 73. It features six staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass, and Drum. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The Violin I and II parts play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, often with slurs and accents. The Viola part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Drum part has a consistent eighth-note rhythm. Measure 74 is indicated by a box containing the number 74.

74

poco rall.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Drum

This musical score block contains measures 74 through 79. It features the same six staves as the previous block. The key signature remains two sharps. The tempo marking *poco rall.* (poco rallentando) is placed above the Violin I staff at measure 74. The Violin I and II parts continue their melodic lines, with some measures featuring slurs and accents. The Viola part continues with its harmonic accompaniment. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts maintain their eighth-note patterns. The Drum part continues with its eighth-note rhythm. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 79.