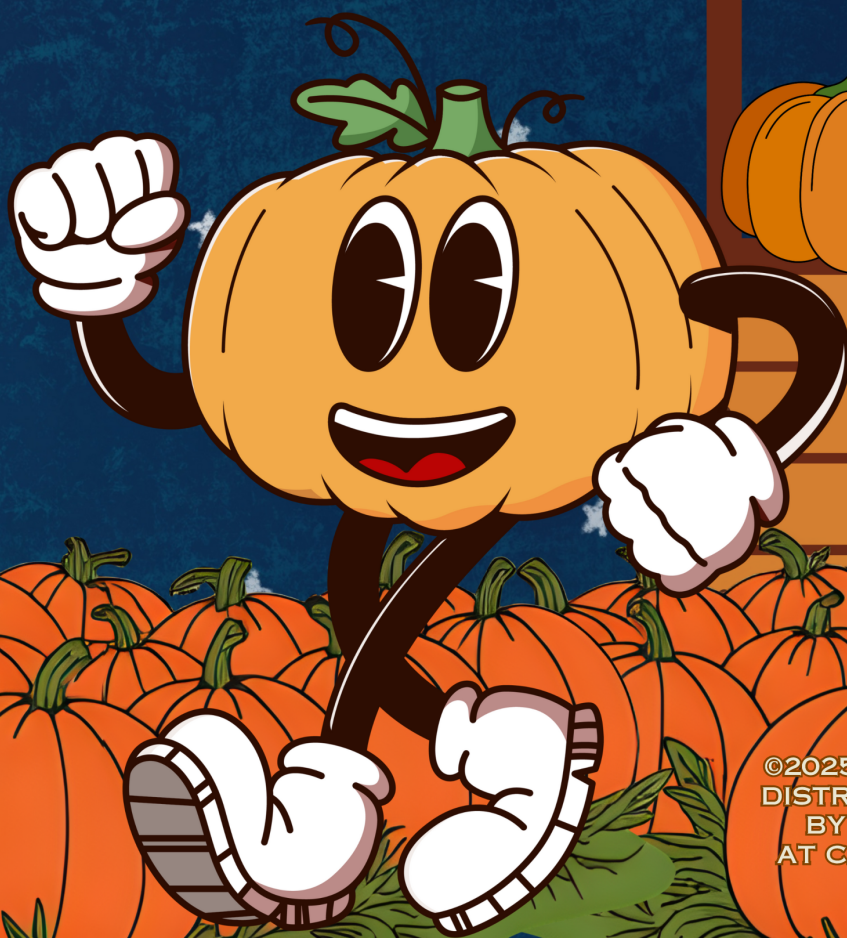


THE SNEAKY PUMPKIN

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA
GRADE 3

BY REBECCA TOMPKINS



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Program Notes

The Sneaky Pumpkin is a fun little piece that will bring humor to your fall concert, a break away from scary themes associated with Halloween! This grade level 3 piece tells the story of a pumpkin which children have brought home to carve, not knowing that they have chosen an intelligent character who is crafty by escaping from them. The main melody, played in the cello part beginning in measure 4, indicates the beginning of the chase. Chromatic scales in the seconds and violas indicate the pumpkin is being sneaky and fooling the children trying to catch it. After the expressed bewilderment of the children in the search because of the pumpkin cunningly outsmarting them, the chase comes to a significant break as the pumpkin does a “happy dance,” in waltz style.

Two melodies emerge in the pumpkin’s dance. One, a dreamy, lyrical melody depicting the pumpkin’s joy in his cleverness; and two, a percussive melody symbolizing his pompous skipping and laughing. These melodies occur most often in pairs of two sections together. Finally, the violas roughly lead us back into a repeat of the first section, yet with more intensity. The chase concludes with one last portrayal of the pumpkin’s slyness, this time in the cellos and basses, as the sneaky pumpkin manages to get away completely from the grasp of death by carving!

I hope your students will enjoy playing this upbeat and silly piece, The Sneaky Pumpkin!

About the Composer

Rebecca Tompkins is a private viola instructor in the Katy, Texas area, and currently maintains a studio of 22-25 viola students. Openings in her studio are in high demand as she is well respected and trusted by orchestra directors in her area through many years. Over the last forty years, she has taught students from elementary school through college age at many different levels. Several of her former students are orchestra directors in cities across the state of Texas. Each year, her students perform in their region orchestras, and she has taught many students that have performed in the Texas All State Orchestras.

Rebecca became interested in music composition and arranging at age eleven, composing for piano, string orchestra, and various ensembles. She continued through her teaching years predominantly arranging music for her students to play, organizing performances of these arrangements for parties and community service performances. Within the last ten years, Rebecca has been arranging hymns for solo viola, and frequently plays those at church services in the Houston area. In the spring of 2022 she began writing and arranging music for string orchestra. It is a delight for her to create music for groups at various levels and to spark interest and joy in young people, as well as to help add to their musical development in style and technique.

Rebecca graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Viola Performance from the University of Houston, under the instruction of Lawrence Wheeler and Kenneth Goldsmith. She has performed in professional groups such as the Houston Ballet Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, Theatre Under the Stars, Texas Opera Theatre, and National Repertory Orchestra based in Colorado. As a college student, she was named the central region winner of the Wendell Irish Viola Award.

In addition to music, Rebecca is a member of US Master’s Swimming and enjoys running, cycling, and pilates as well.



The Sneaky Pumpkin

Rebecca Tompkins

Allegro (♩ = ca. 120)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

1 3 4

5 6 7 8 9

8

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

mf *mp* *f* *gliss.*

12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

10 11 12 13 14

mf *mf* *mf* *f* *mp*

gliss. *gliss.* *mp* *f* *mp*

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

15 16 17 18

f *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

19 20 21 22 23

p *mf* *f* *f* *f*

f *mf* *f* *f* *f*

f *p* *f* *f* *f*

p *mf* *f* *f* *f*

p *mf* *f* *f* *f*

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

24 25 26 27 28

p *mf* *f* *mp* *mp*

p *mf* *f* *mp* *mp*

mp *p* *f* *mf* *mf*

mf *p* *f* *mp* *mp*

mf *p* *f* *mp* *mp*

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

Measures 29-33

Dynamic markings: *f*, *p*

Rehearsal mark 36 is visible over the score.

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

Measures 34-38

Dynamic markings: *mf*, *pp*, *mp*, *p*, *fz*, *pizz.*

Rehearsal mark 36 is visible over the score.

40

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

39 40 41 42 43

mf *p* *mf* *f* *mf*

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

arco *arco*

div.

44 45 46 47 48 49

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz. *molto rit.* *arco*

mp *cresc.* *f* *dim.* *mp*

mp *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

mp *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

p *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

p *cresc.* *f* *dim.*

Moderate Waltz (♩ = 60)

Score for measures 50-57, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in G major (one sharp). Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance markings include *div.* (divisi), *pizz.* (pizzicato), and *arco* (arco).

Measures 50-57 are shown. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Rehearsal or Performance".

Score for measures 58-64, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in G major (one sharp). Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A rehearsal mark is present at measure 58.

Measures 58-64 are shown. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Rehearsal or Performance".

66

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

65 66 67 68 69 70 71

mf *f* *p* *f* *p*

73

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79

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

80

Score for measures 80-85, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in G major (one sharp). The Vln. I and Vln. II parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vla. part plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vc. and D.B. parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *f* dynamic marking at measure 80, which changes to *mf* at measure 84. A crescendo hairpin is shown between measures 80 and 81, and another between measures 82 and 83.

80 81 82 83 84 85

Score for measures 86-92, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in G major (one sharp). The Vln. I and Vln. II parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vla. part plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vc. and D.B. parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *cresc.* dynamic marking at measure 86, which changes to *f* at measure 88, then *p* at measure 90, and finally *mp* at measure 92. A crescendo hairpin is shown between measures 86 and 87, and another between measures 88 and 89.

86 87 88 89 90 91 92

99 Tempo 1 (♩ = 120)

poco rit.

Score for measures 93-99, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in 4/4 time, key of D major. Dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. A *poco rit.* marking is present above measure 97. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the page.

Measures 93-99 are shown. Measures 93-96 are marked *pp*. Measures 97-98 are marked *p*. Measure 99 is marked *f*. The tempo is marked 99 Tempo 1 (♩ = 120). A *poco rit.* marking is present above measure 97.

Score for measures 100-104, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in 4/4 time, key of D major. Dynamics range from *mf* to *f*. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the page.

Measures 100-104 are shown. Measures 100-101 are marked *mf*. Measures 102-104 are marked *f*. A *gliss.* marking is present above measure 102. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the page.

107

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

105 106 107 108 109

mf

mp

f

mp

f

mp

gliss.

gliss.

mp

f

mp

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

110 111 112 113

f

mp

f

p

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

Violin I (Vln. I) *fp* *cresc.* *f*

Violin II (Vln. II) *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

Viola (Vla.) *p* *mp* *f* *m*

Violoncello (Vc.) *fp* *cresc.*

Double Bass (D.B.) *fp* *cresc.*

114 115 116 117 118

Violin I (Vln. I) *mf* *mf* *mf* *p*

Violin II (Vln. II) *mf* *mf* *p*

Viola (Vla.) *f* *p*

Violoncello (Vc.) *f* *p*

Double Bass (D.B.) *f* *p*

119 120 121 122 123

div. **125**

Vln. I *f* *mf* *gliss.*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *gliss.*

Vla. *f* *fz* *mp* *cresc.*

Vc. *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

D.B. *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

124 125 126 127

Vln. I *cresc.* *f* *mf* *ff* *div.*

Vln. II *cresc.* *f* *mf* *ff* *div.*

Vla. *f* *mf* *ff* *div.*

Vc. *cresc.* *f* *ff*

D.B. *cresc.* *f* *ff*

128 129 130 131