

BEGINNERS

For our first piece, we are going to take you back to the beginning of the school year when we were first learning how to hold our instruments and pluck the open strings.

“Bile ‘em Cabbage Down” is an American fiddle tune. We will play the bass line *pizzicato*, which means plucking, while (our teacher) plays the melody with the bow. After we’ve played the repeat, we’ll play it again but faster.

In orchestra, in addition to learning how to play our instruments, we also write our own music! So far this year, we have each composed two pieces. We wish we could perform them all for you, but instead, you will hear each group of instruments perform one piece.

First, you will hear (Name’s) piece called **“Title”** performed by the bass and cellos. Next the violas will play **“Title”** by (Name). Finally, the violins will play (Name’s) piece called **“Title.”** Please hold your applause until after the third composition has been played. Then the featured composers will stand to be recognized.

“Ode to Joy” is a very famous melody by Beethoven and comes from his Ninth Symphony. First we will play the harmony *pizzicato*. Next we will add our left hand fingers to play different notes for the melody. Finally, we will add our bows and play both the melody and harmony together. We are sure you will recognize this piece!

Our final fifth grade orchestra piece will be **“Serenata,”** and it is probably our favorite piece to play so far this year. This is an *arco* piece, so we will use our bows to play the open strings. Watch as we lift our bows during the rests so we can start the next note down-bow.

SECOND YEAR PLAYERS

Welcome to the sixth grade orchestra portion of the concert! **“Hallelujah”** is the piece that we warm up with together at the beginning of each full orchestra. It is a round, so you will hear the violas and cellos start and then the violins will come in with the same music later to create harmony.

Our next piece is the American song **“I Got Rhythm.”** The music was written in 1930 by George Gershwin, and his brother Ira Gershwin wrote the lyrics. At the beginning, the violins play the melody, the violas play a harmony part, and the cellos and basses play their own harmony part--there's a lot going on!

Then, in the middle sections of the piece you will hear the melody getting passed back and forth between the upper strings and lower strings. We will be performing this piece again in January for String Fest along with all of the elementary orchestra members, so here is a special sneak peek of **“I Got Rhythm.”**

Our last two orchestra pieces will feature the combined orchestras. **“Star of the County Down”** is a very catchy Irish folk song. The minor flavor and repeated patterns really keep this melody stuck in our heads.

All the patterns have helped many of us to memorize this piece too. Sixth grade will play the melody and fifth grade will play the harmony to **“Star of the County Down.”**

Thanks everyone for coming to hear our concert today. It means a lot to us to be able to share our music with you! Our last orchestra piece today is a winter concert tradition here at school.

Before we turn it over to the band and choir, here is **“Jingle Bells”** by James Pierpont performed by the combined fifth and sixth grade orchestras. Thanks again for coming, and enjoy!