

KENDOR APEX STRING ORCHESTRA SERIES

Rhapsody In Blue

GRADE 4+ • DURATION 5:20

George Gershwin

(1898 - 1937)

arranged by Michael Hopkins

INSTRUMENTATION

1 - Full Score
 8 - 1st Violin
 8 - 2nd Violin
 3 - 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
 5 - Viola
 5 - Cello
 5 - Bass

EXTRA SCORES & PARTS AVAILABLE

To The Director

George Gershwin completed *Rhapsody In Blue* in 1924 and performed it on the piano at the world premiere at Aeolian Hall in New York City on February 12, 1924. *Rhapsody In Blue* was one of the first orchestral works to fuse together blues, jazz and classical styles to create a distinctly American orchestral sound, and has been a staple of American concert music for the last 100 years.

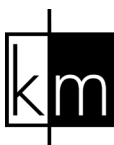
This arrangement is designed to allow grade 4+ string orchestra groups to experience all the themes from Gershwin's classic work for piano and full orchestra. After the initial trill on the open D string, the violas should put their 1st fingers down on Eb and slowly gliss on the 1st finger to the G on the downbeat of the 2nd measure. I recommend having students listen to the clarinet glissando in the original to get a feel for the style. If the entire section cannot coordinate the glissando, it can also be performed by a solo viola.

Gershwin's style requires many chromatic alterations. Finger slides (e.g. L1 to H1 or L2 to H2) can help emphasize the style. For the chromatic lines at measure 76 and again at measure 98, I recommend the 3-2-1 fingering. In the section at measure 98, the 1st Violins should be prominent and other parts supportive.

A recording of this piece can be downloaded at www.kendormusic.com

MICHAEL HOPKINS

Michael Hopkins is an associate professor of music education at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance in Ann Arbor, where he teaches undergraduate courses in string techniques, orchestra methods, and music technology, and graduate courses in psychology of music and research methods. Prior to joining the faculty, Hopkins was an associate professor of music at the University of Vermont, from 1999-2010, where he was conductor of the UVM Orchestra and taught courses in music education and music technology. Hopkins earned a Bachelor's Degree in music education from Colorado State University and a Masters and Ph.D. in Music Education from the University of Michigan. He composes pieces in orchestral, chamber, solo, electro-acoustic and popular styles. He has been commissioned by many ensembles in Colorado, Michigan and Vermont.



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Rhapsody In Blue - 2

Tempo giusto ♩ = 120

16

Vln. I *ff* *mf*

Vln. II *ff* *mf*

Vla. (Vln. III) *ff* *mf*

Cello *ff marcato* *mf*

Bass *ff marcato*

16 17 18 19

21

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. (Vln. III) *ff*

Cello *ff marcato*

Bass *mf* *ff marcato*

20 21 22 23

25

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. (Vln. III) *p*

Cello *p*

Bass *p*

24 25 26 27

Rhapsody In Blue - 3

29

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

f *III marcato* *cresc.*

f *marcato* *cresc.*

f *marcato* *cresc.*

II pos. I pos. *f* *III pos.* *marcato* *cresc.*

28 29 *f* *marcato* 3 3 30 *cresc.* 31

35

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

sfz *p* *ff*

sfz *p* *ff*

sfz *p* *ff*

sfz *p* *ff*

32 33 *sfz* *p* 34 35 *ff* 36

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

37 38 39 40

Rhapsody In Blue - 4

43

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla. (Vln. III)
Cello
Bass

41 > 42 43 *mf* *pizz.* 44 *p* 45 *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 41 to 45. The first violin (Vln. I) and second violin (Vln. II) parts feature a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings of *mf*, *p*, and *f*. The viola (Vln. III) part follows a similar pattern. The cello part includes triplets and a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking at measure 43. The bass part is mostly rests with some notes at the beginning and end. A large purple watermark 'FOR PROHIBITED' is overlaid across the score.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla. (Vln. III)
Cello
Bass

46 *p* 47 *ff* *arco* 48 *ff* 49

Detailed description: This system covers measures 46 to 49. The first violin (Vln. I) and second violin (Vln. II) parts have dynamic markings of *p* and *ff*. The viola (Vln. III) part also has *p* and *ff* markings. The cello part features *arco* (arco) markings and dynamic markings of *p* and *ff*. The bass part has dynamic markings of *p* and *ff*. A large purple watermark 'ONLY REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED' is overlaid across the score.

50

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla. (Vln. III)
Cello
Bass

50 *p* 51 52 *p* 53

Detailed description: This system covers measures 50 to 53. The first violin (Vln. I) part has dynamic markings of *p* and includes fingerings (1, 2, 3, 4) and a *III* marking. The second violin (Vln. II) part has dynamic markings of *p* and includes a *L1 -1* marking. The viola (Vln. III) part has dynamic markings of *p*. The cello part has dynamic markings of *p*. The bass part has dynamic markings of *p*. A large purple watermark 'KendorMusic.com' is overlaid across the score.

Rhapsody In Blue - 5

54 rit. 55 56 57 *ff*

div.
p rit.

rit.

rit.

rit.

ff
div.

ff

ff

a tempo

58 59 60 61

f *pizz.* *div.* *unis.* *arco*

f *pizz.*

f *pizz.*

f

f

62 63 64 65

pizz. *div.* *unis.*

pizz.

pizz.

f

f

Rhapsody In Blue - 8

96 Grandioso ♩ = 96

Musical score for measures 92-97. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violin I, Violin II, Viola (Violin III), 1st Cello, 2nd Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Grandioso' with a quarter note equal to 96. The score includes dynamic markings such as *rit.*, *p*, and *f*. Measure 92 starts with a *rit.* marking. Measure 94 has a *p* marking. Measure 96 has an *f* marking. There are also performance instructions like 'III' and '(b)'. Fingering numbers 1, 2, 3, 4 are present above notes in measures 94 and 95. A large purple watermark 'FOR PREVIEW ONLY' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 98-103. The score is for a string ensemble consisting of Violin I, Violin II, Viola (Violin III), 1st Cello, 2nd Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Grandioso' with a quarter note equal to 96. The score includes the marking *legato*. Measures 98-103 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. A large purple watermark 'REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED' is overlaid on the score. At the bottom, the website 'KendorMusic.com' is visible.

Rhapsody In Blue - 9

Vln. I
f
2 0 3 2 1
cresc. ed accel.

Vln. II
f
div.
cresc. ed accel.

Vla. (Vln. III)
f
1 3 2 1
cresc. ed accel.

1st Cello
f
cresc. ed accel.

2nd Cello
f
cresc. ed accel.

Bass
f
cresc. ed accel.

104 *f* 105 106 *cresc. ed accel.* 107 108 109

110 *ff allarg.* *Con moto* ♩ = 120 *pizz.* H3 L1

Vln. I
ff allarg. *unis. 3* *div.* *unis. 3* *div.* *pizz.* H3 L1

Vln. II
ff allarg. *unis. 3* *div.* *unis. 3* *div.* *pizz. unis.* H3 L1

Vla. (Vln. III)
ff allarg. 1 *pizz.* H3 L1 L2

1st Cello
ff allarg. 2 4 2 1 1 (h) 4 3 2 1 *pizz.*

2nd Cello
ff allarg. 3 II 3 I *pizz.*

Bass
ff allarg. *pizz.*

110 *ff allarg.* 111 112 113 114 *p* 115

Rhapsody In Blue - 10

Grandioso ♩ = 126

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

116 117 118 119 120 121

div. *unis.* *ff* *arco*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

122 123 124 125

L1 *H1* *L2* *H2* *H3*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

126 127 128 129

Rhapsody In Blue - 11

130

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

1st Cello

2nd Cello

Bass

130 131 132 133 134

Molto allargando $\text{♩} = 66$

138

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

135 136 rit. 137 138

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Bass

139 140 141 142 143