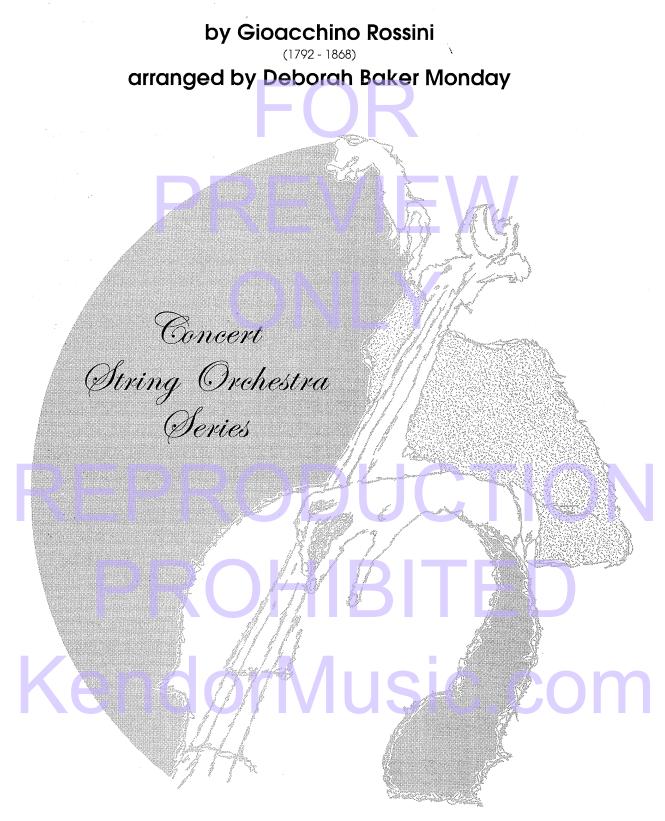


GRADE 3+ • DURATION 6:10



INSTRUMENTATION

1 - Full Score

8 - 1st Violin 8 - 2nd Violin

5 Viola

To The Director

Rossini is well known for his many operas, and this one is the 21st of his 39 operas. It is considered an opera semiseria - a serious plot, that includes a character who provides some comic relief. The comical element is represented in the music with two themes, and may seem familiar to students because of their frequent use in commercials and in background music in movies.

These two memorable themes appear in this arrangement. After a brief introduction establishing a military tone for the characters, the most recognizable theme is stated in the key of D minor changing the mood to that of mischievous humor. This sets the mood for the entire plot revolving around a case of mistaken of blame. In summary, a servant girl is accused of stealing a spoon, but after the arrest and right before the punishment is carried out, the real culprit is revealed - a thieving magpie (bird).

The staccato markings could be interpreted as an off the string bowing if players are capable, and should be executed in the lower part of the bow. The greatest challenge may be in the triplet, which requires 2-notes slurred followed by a separate bow in a repetitive sequence. Players will need to match the portion of the bow used for the slur and do a light upbow on the single note to achieve a balanced sound throughout the passage.

The piece states the "A" theme first in D minor (measure 9) and then recurs at measure 28 in a D major version. The "B" theme occurs first in F major at measure 64, and returns with a key change to D major at measure 127. Much of the motion is scalewise, so regular practice of major and minor scales will be helpful in preparing this piece.

Finding similar passages in the first statement of the themes and in their return later in the piece will help players recognize the form of the piece. It will also provide them with some continuity in practicing what appears to be a rather long piece and discovering that it is made up of the two themes and their presentation in different keys.

The clever and mischievous tone of this overture will captivate your students, and hopefully will inspire them to explore the original work and find it a great source for expressive interpretation.

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DEBORAH BAKER MONDAY

Currently teaching in the Logan City School District, she is a cello/bass specialist working with 4th-8th grade students in seven schools. An active Bass performer and private teacher, she has served as adjunct Bass instructor at Utah State University and has been on the faculty of the ASTA with NSOA "Bass Fest" for three years. She co-authored the "Strings Extraordinaire" collection and her works have been published with a number of leading educational music publishers. In 1999 Deborah was named the Utah ASTA with NSOA Elementary Teacher Of The Year.

Grade 3+ duration 6:10

FULL SCORE

La Gazza Ladra

by Gioacchino Rossini arrranged by Deborah Baker Monday



La Gazza Ladra - 2







La Gazza Ladra - 3





































La Gazza Ladra - 9









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