

A LITTLE STREAM

(Xiao He Tang Shui)

Traditional Yunnan Folk Song of China

Arranged by Albert Wang

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5



Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

PROGRAM NOTES

This lovely piece is from Yunnan province in China. The word, *yunnan*, refers to “the south of clouds.” It sounds beautiful, and it really is a beautiful place. Yunnan province, where many minorities live, is located in Southwest China. It has a vast territory with magnificent mountains, rivers, and abundant natural resources. Yunnan is bordered by Burma in the west and Vietnam and Laos in the south. Because of its beautiful melody, “A Little Stream” is well known by most Chinese people and is passed from generation to generation.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

One of the most well known folk songs of China, yet less well known elsewhere, this piece describes the beauty of a stream as it moves across the terrain—flowing quickly, flowing slowly, moving quietly, and tumbling loudly over a waterfall. String orchestras perform many tunes describing rivers in Europe and the US, and now they also have an Asian musical description of a stream. While this is an authentic cross-curricular work, the orchestration combines the pentatonic, traditional, jazz, and modern harmonies in 2/2 time.

At the beginning of the piece, you might feel the moonlight shadows reflecting on a little stream. Then the stream flows—sometimes fast, sometimes slow, sometimes as quiet as a small pond, sometimes as loud as a waterfall. Through the music, students might experience a journey on a little stream through a natural setting. The arranger is seeking simple, yet expressive playing, with a large sound and profound meaning.

The tempo and the speed of Chinese folk songs are not standardized. Different people singing traditional Chinese folk songs perform them in different ways. So, it is acceptable to play faster or slower than indicated. Play this piece with a little bit exaggeration in order to make the instrument sing the folk song.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

10 11 12 13 14

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

15 16 17 18

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

21 3 4 2 2

mf *mp* *mp* *mp*

19 20 21 22

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

dim. *dim.* *dim.* *dim.* *dim.*

4 3 V 3

23 24 25 26 27

I Vlns. *mp*

II Vlns. *mp*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p*

Str. Bass *pizz.* *mf*

28 29 30

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla. *pizz. div.*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass

31 32 33

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

34 35 36 37

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 34 through 37. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 7/8. In measure 34, the Violins I and II parts have a triplet of eighth notes starting with a '3' and a 'V' (breath mark). The Cello part has a triplet of eighth notes starting with a '3' and a '3' above it. The Viola part has a quarter rest. The String Bass part has a quarter note. Measures 35 and 36 continue the patterns. Measure 37 shows a change in the Viola part with a quarter note and a '4' above it. The Cello part has a triplet of eighth notes starting with a '3' and a '3' above it, followed by a quarter note with a '1' above it. The String Bass part has a quarter note.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

38 39 40 41

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 38 through 41. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 7/8. In measure 38, the Violins I and II parts have a quarter note followed by a triplet of eighth notes. The Viola part has a quarter rest. The Cello part has a quarter rest. The String Bass part has a quarter rest. Measure 39 continues the patterns. Measure 40 shows a change in the Viola part with a quarter note and a '40' in a box above it. The Cello part has a quarter note with a '1' above it, followed by a quarter note with a '2' above it, and a quarter note with a '4' above it. The String Bass part has a quarter note. Measure 41 shows a change in the Viola part with a quarter note and a 'V' above it. The Cello part has a quarter note with a '1' above it, followed by a quarter note with a '2' above it, and a quarter note with a '4' above it. The String Bass part has a quarter note.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

42 43 44

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

45 46 47 48

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

4

50

pizz. 1

f

4

1

2

pizz. 1

f

arco

f

1

1 x2

f

arco

f

49

50

51

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

3

54

arco

mf

arco

mp

mp

pizz.

mp

2

2

3

52

53

54

55

I Vlns. *mp*

II Vlns. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

56 57 58 59 60

I Vlns. *p*

II Vlns. *p*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass

61 62 63 64 65

69 **Meno mosso** (♩ = 54)

rit.

Vlns.
I *dim.* *pp*
II *pp*

Vla.
p *dim.* *pp*

Cello

Str. Bass
mp *pp*

66 67 68 69 70

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello
pp

Str. Bass

71 72 73 74 75

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

76 77 78 79 80

81
I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

81 82 83

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

cresc.

p

mp

mp

mp

mp

4

4

1

div. 2

2

2

1

4

V

V

84 85 86

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

3

2

4

V

V

V

V

87 88 89

91 Tempo I (♩ = 58)

rit.

V

3

I Vlns. I

II Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

f

f

f

3

4

2

2

I Vlns. I

II Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mp

mp

mp

mp

(V)

mp

pizz.

mp

93 94 95 96

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

arco

97 98 99

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

100 101 102

I Vlns. *mf*

II Vlns. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp* pizz.

4 3 V 3

103 104 105 106

I Vlns. *p*

II Vlns. *p*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p* arco

Str. Bass *p*

3 div. 1 1 rit.

fp *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

107 108 109 110 111 112