

STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Creaking Tree

Darol Anger

Arranged by Bob Phillips

INSTRUMENTATION

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

Creaking Tree

An original fiddle tune for string orchestra by the legendary fiddler Darol Anger, as arranged by Bob Phillips. *Creaking Tree* is an attempt to capture the spirit and sound of many of the wonderful 'modal' sounding fiddle tunes that populate the American musical landscape, alternating bluesy sections with minimalist-sounding sequences. This piece epitomizes the sound of the many new string bands of our era, as educated players delve into and interpret anew our great traditional music.

Notes to the Conductor (and to the players)

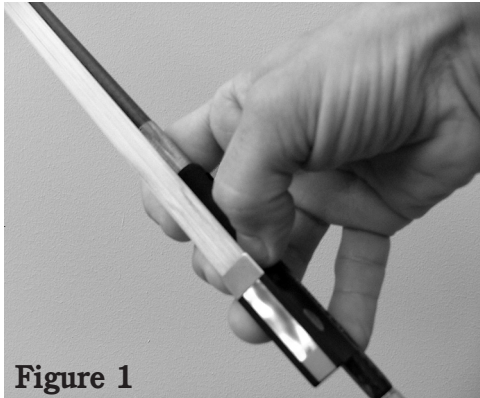
Creaking Tree is an original fiddle tune. This tune is an attempt to capture the spirit and sound of many of the wonderful 'modal' and bluesy-sounding tunes that populate the American fiddle landscape, combining the Scotch-Irish traditions with the African-American sounds that have made North American music a favorite throughout the world. Some of the qualities that characterize these tunes, and *Creaking Tree*, are:

1. A flat 7th in the scale (in this case, a G natural in the key of A major). This gives the tune a dominant 7th or Mixolydian sound, the root sound of rock and roll.
2. Alternating major and minor feeling, often a 'bluesy' 3rd scale degree, which adds the quintessentially African-American blues sound.
3. Odd phrase lengths.
4. Rhythmic melodies that encourage dancing.

The introduction uses frequent string-crossing as a rhythmic device. Try to imagine people dancing to this, or balls bouncing around, and strive to keep this 'bouncing' motion as you play. Pay special attention to the use of the 'blues 3rd.' Generally in this tune, the left-hand finger slides. Whenever you have a C or a C# (the third degree of the A major scale – as in the Vln 1 part, mm. 36 & 39) that is longer than an 8th note, assume that there will be a little slide into that note. Not too much, but enough to give a bluesy feeling. This effect can also be applied to the F# that happens at the very beginning of the third section (Vln 1, m. 48), when the tune hits a D chord. That F# is the bluesy third degree of the D scale. There are long E notes in the second section (mm. 34 & 37) that should be played by the violins in a fiddling style; this means playing an E on the A string with the 4th finger (fiddle players use the 4th finger frequently) together with the open E string to get a calling-out, lonesome sound. This technique effectively doubles a violin's sound, and, before the use of electrical amplification, enabled fiddlers to be heard without microphones at dances.

“Chop” Technique

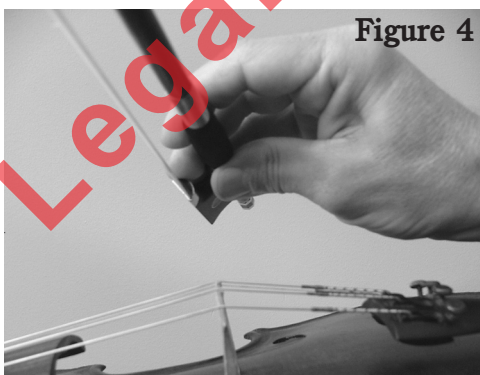
Creaking Tree incorporates the infamous “chop” technique, notated with ‘x’ noteheads (Ex. Violin 2, Viola and Cello, m. 33).



To “chop,” first grip the bow normally, then “roll” the thumb out to opposite bend position. (Figures 1 and 2)



The bow is brought straight down on the string using mostly wrist motion, making a no-note percussive sound. The elbow is slightly down, arm relaxed. Let the bow rest on the string; don’t pick up! (Figure 3)



For the upbows immediately following the “chop” notes, the bow is “popped” off the string. (Figure 4)

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 4:00

Creaking Tree

Darol Anger
Arr. by Bob Phillips

Moderately funky $\text{♩} = 90$

Violins
I *mf* slightly swing eighth notes
II *mf* slightly swing eighth notes

Viola
mf slightly swing eighth notes

Cello
mf slightly swing eighth notes

String Bass
p slightly swing eighth notes

Harp or Piano
mf slightly swing eighth notes

1 2 3 4

* Muffle the C string with your left hand. Slowly slide the bow (at a 45° angle to the bridge) while pressing heavily into the string. Start the bow at the bridge and move towards the fingerboard making a creaking tree sound.

Vlins.
I *mf* slightly swing eighth notes
II *mf* slightly swing eighth notes

Vla.
mf slightly swing eighth notes

Cello
f (V) *p* solo

Str. Bass
f (V) *p* solo

Harp or Piano
mf slightly swing eighth notes

5 6 7 8 9

Score for measures 10 through 14, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, and Harp or Piano.

Vlns. I & II: Violins I and II parts. Vlns. I plays a melodic line with accents and slurs. Vlns. II plays a sustained harmonic line with slurs.

Vla.: Viola part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Cello: Cello part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Str. Bass: String Bass part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Harp or Piano: Harp or Piano part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Measures 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Score for measures 15 through 19, featuring Vlns. I & II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, and Harp or Piano.

Vlns. I & II: Violins I and II parts. Vlns. I plays a melodic line with accents and slurs. Vlns. II plays a sustained harmonic line with slurs.

Vla.: Viola part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Cello: Cello part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Str. Bass: String Bass part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Harp or Piano: Harp or Piano part, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur.

Measures 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

tutti sul A

f

(V)

20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

sul E

tutti sul C

f

tutti

sul A

sul C

25 26 27 28 29

33

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

sul A

f

mf

mf

mf pizz.

f

30 31 32 33 34

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

35 36 37 38

* X indicates a chop. Stick the bow firmly on the string, creating a percussive sound.

* X indicates slap strings.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

55 56 57 58 59

64

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

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

solo

60 61 62 63 64 65

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

66 67 68 69 70

71

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

71 72 73 74 75

76 77 78 79 80

26604S

26604S

This musical score is for measures 91 through 95 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. The score is written for a string quartet (Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass) and a Harp or Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings like *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A large red watermark 'MusicalPurchase.com' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 91-95:

- Violins I:** Measure 91 features a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) and a triplet of eighth notes (B, D, F#). Measure 92 has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) and a triplet of eighth notes (B, D, F#). Measure 93 has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) and a triplet of eighth notes (B, D, F#). Measure 94 has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) and a triplet of eighth notes (B, D, F#). Measure 95 has a triplet of eighth notes (F#, A, C#) and a triplet of eighth notes (B, D, F#).
- Violins II:** Measure 91 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 92 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 93 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 94 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 95 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A).
- Viola:** Measure 91 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 92 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 93 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 94 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 95 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A).
- Cello:** Measure 91 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 92 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 93 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 94 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 95 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A).
- String Bass:** Measure 91 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 92 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 93 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 94 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 95 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A).
- Harp or Piano:** Measure 91 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 92 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 93 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 94 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A). Measure 95 has a half note (F#) and a half note (A).

This musical score is for measures 96 through 100 of 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. The score is written for five parts: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and Str. Bass, and Harp or Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto'. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*. The Harp or Piano part features arpeggiated chords. The Cello and Str. Bass parts have a *mf* marking. The Viola part has a *mp* marking. The Violins I and II parts have a *p* marking. The score is marked with a large red 'P' and 'Legal Use Required' watermark.

103

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

101 102 103 104 105

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

106 107 108 109 110

111

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f* pizz. slap slap

Harp or Piano *f*

111 112 113 114 115

119

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano *mf*

119 120

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla.
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Harp or Piano

121 122 123 124 125

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla.
 Cello
 Str. Bass
 Harp or Piano

126 127 128 129 130

* X indicates a chop. Stick the bow firmly on the string, creating a percussive sound.

134

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

131 132 133 134 135

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

136 137 138 139 140

142

Vlns. I pizz. *mp*

Vlns. II pizz. *mp*

Vla. pizz. *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp* III -1 IV -4 III -1 I -1

ff

Harp or Piano *mp*

141 142 143 144 145 146 147

150

Vlns. I arco *mp*

Vlns. II arco *mp*

Vla. arco *ff*

Cello arco *ff*

Str. Bass *mf*

Harp or Piano *mf*

148 149 150 151 152 153

158 tutti *p cresc.*

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

154 155 156 157 158

159 160 161 162 163

Vlns. I II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Harp or Piano

p cresc. *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

arco *sul A*

166

Vlns. I *mf* (V) *f*

Vlns. II *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello *mf* *f*

Str. Bass *mf* *f*

Harp or Piano *mf* *f*

164 165 166 167 168

Vlns. I *ff*

Vlns. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff*

Harp or Piano *ff*

169 170 171 172 173

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase