

Libby Larsen

SIX OR SEVEN DANCES

For String Orchestra and Harp

FULL SCORE

Members of the Consortium for the Advancement of String Orchestra Repertoire

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Sabrina Behrens & John Niler	William B. Travis High School	Richmond, TX
Creston Herron	University of Kansas	Lawrence, KS

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SIX OR SEVEN DANCES

for String Orchestra and Harp

Commissioned by Michael Isadore
and the Consortium for the Advancement of String Orchestra Repertoire

- I. Fanfare with Glissandi
- II. Step Dance 1
- III. Slip Jig
- IV. Slow Dance at Star Rise
- V. Slap Dance
- VI. Slow Dance at Moon Set
- VII. Step Dance 2

Six or Seven Dances, for string orchestra and harp, is a suite of dances which can be played as a continuous, one movement work (6 dances if you combine Step Dance 1&2, Seven dances otherwise) or can be excerpted and performed as single, paired or groups of dances.

Premiere: October 3, 2024, by the John Foster Dulles High School Honors Orchestra, Michael Isadore,
Conductor, Rodgers Auditorium, Sugar Land, Texas

Duration: c. 11:30

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Program Note

Fanfare with Glissandi

Fast and bright, *Fanfare with Glissandi* befits its title - a string fanfare with harp flourishes. Using two contrasting musical ideas - repeated block chords in the strings and multiple-octave glissandi in the harp - the piece evokes a sudden, grand entrance, and is an invitation for the audience to come to the performance and bring their imaginations with them.

- c. 30"

Step Dance 1

Step Dances are a part of cultures around the world. *Step Dance 1* is inspired by the American Stepping tradition, which is thought to have originated in the early 1900's by African American College students (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gU44yROz2RI>). The music of stepping (step dancing) is rhythm, pure and powerful rhythm, made with the body as the "instrument" and the person (inhabiting that body) as the performer who collaborates with it, by playing it like a percussionist plays a drum set. Layers of complex rhythms are made from body slaps, footsteps, clapping, snapping, tapping, face music, and spoken word. Music is the result. Performed solo or in groups, step dancing is a message, a pure and powerful rhythmic message.

- c. 1'30"

Slip Jig

Slip Jig - an Irish stepdance - is an ode to the Irish dance, particularly the Irish jig. Of several types of jigs, including single jigs, double jigs, slip jigs and slides - the slip jig is characterized by a 9/8 time signature, with accents on five of the nine beats (1-2-3, 4-5-6, 7-8-9). Anyone who has watched or danced a slip jig has experienced its graceful, light, skipping and hopping steps and its lilting spirit.

- c. 1'40"

Slow Dance at Star Rise

At the end day, standing still, in dusk's twilight, the sun just below the horizon, the sky neither totally dark nor completely lit, time floats, unmeasured. Stars that are with us in daylight, unseen, now are seen. Stars that are unseen as the Earth moves through its daily rotation, rise in the East and shine brightly as the Earth rotates to the twilight of dawn. Time floats, stars rise, the dance floats on time in twilight.

- c. 1'50"

Slap Dance

The German folk dance tradition of "Schuhplattler" inspired this light-hearted orchestral dance. The word schuhplattler is derived from two German words, schuhe (shoe) and platt (flat). It aptly describes how the loud rhythmic slapping sounds the dancers make by striking their shoes with the flat of their hands becomes part of the music for the dance. In this *Slap Dance*, pizzicato takes on the role of schuhplattler, using snap and slap pizzicato to characterize the slapping effect. Instead of schuhplattler, you could think of this dance as a pizzikatobassotanz!

- c. 1'

Slow Dance at Moon Set

At day's beginning, standing still, in dawn's twilight, the sun just below the horizon, the sky neither totally dark nor completely lit, time floats, unmeasured, lit with moonlight. With us all the sun-measured day, unseen during most days, the moon's time to shine is twilight to twilight, phase to phase: new moon, waxing crescent, first quarter, waxing gibbous, third quarter, waning crescent moon, unmeasured, setting in twilight.

- c. 2'

Step Dance 2

Step Dance 1: Redux - reinterpretation and recapitulation. *Step Dance 2* is a statement of the energy and power in Ensemble State-of-Being = together, performing in real time.

- c. 2'45"

10

Hp.

10

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

13

Hp.

13

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

25
Hp. *8va*

25
Vln. 1 *spiccato* *p* *molto* *ff* *div.* *ff* *fp*
Vln. 2 *mf* *spiccato* *div.* *p* *molto* *ff* *mf* *ff*
Vla. *mf* *div.* *ff* *mf* *ff*
Vnc. *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*
Cb. *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

30
Hp.

30
Vln. 1 *f* *ff* *fp* *f*
Vln. 2 *p* *molto* *ff* *p* *molto*
Vla. *f* *ff* *fp* *f*
Vnc. *fierce* *spiccato*
Cb. *mf* *f* *mf*

33 *gl.* **B** Fierce, aggressive to **D** *gl.*

Hp.

33 *ff* *fp* **B** Fierce, aggressive to **D** *ff* *gl.*

Vln. 1 *ff* *fp* *unis. pizz.* *f*

Vln. 2 *ff* *fp* *unis. pizz.* *f*

Vla. *unis.* *ffp*

Vnc. *unis.* *ffp*

Cb. *f*

37 *(*)*

Hp.

37 *arco* *f* *(b)*

Vln. 1 *arco* *f*

Vln. 2 *arco* *f* *(b)*

Vla. *f*

Vnc. *f*

Cb.

40

Hp.

40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

43

Hp.

C

ff

Sva-

Cl- H-

43

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

C

mf

div.

ff

mp

p sub.

ff

ff

ff

ff

46

Hp.

ff

Sva.

f

faster

46

Vln. 1

mf

ff

f

faster

Vln. 2

mp

ff

f

unis.

Vla.

p sub.

ff

f

Vnc.

p sub.

ff

f

Cb.

p sub.

ff

f

49

Hp.

49

Vln. 1

f

unis.

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

accel. to m. 56

Hp.

accel. to m. 56

1
2
Vln.
Vla.
Vnc.
Cb.

Slip Jig

D Slowly, freely

55
Hp.

D Slowly, freely

1
2
Vln.
Vla.
Vnc.
Cb.

ff

What!?

attacca

mp

* in unison, turn face to the audience on beat 2 and shout, "What!?" on beat 4

72

Hp. *f* *8va*

ord. div.

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *lightly, detached* *p*

Vnc. *lightly, detached*

Cb. *ord.* *mf*

77 (*8va*) **E**

Hp. *gl.* *(*)*

Vln. 1 *unis.* *mf* **E**

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vnc. *pizz.* *mf*

Cb. *pizz.* *mf*

82 F

Hp. *gl.* *f* *gl.*

82 F

Vln. 1 *solo* *f* *tutti* *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Vnc. *arco* *p*

Cb. *(pizz.)* *p*

87 G

Hp. *mf* *f*

8va-

87 G

Vln. 1 *mf* *p sub.*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vnc. *mf* *p sub.*

Cb. *arco* *p*

92 ^(8va)

Hp.

92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

mf

raucous

mf

raucous

mf

raucous

mf

raucous

97

97

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

f

f

f

f

f

p sub.

f

p sub.

H

102

8va

Hp.

f

H

102

1

2

Vln.

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

p sub.

f

mf

f

f

div.

f

tr.

107

Hp.

ff hand over hand gl.

ff hand over hand gl.

107

1

2

Vln.

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

f

div.

p sub.

ff

ff

ff

f

p sub.

ff

f

p sub.

ff

f

p sub.

ff

attacca

gently ritard.

146 *mp* *f*

Hp.

146 *mf sub.* *cresc.* *f* *p* ritard. dolce unis.

1 *unis.* *div.*

2 *cresc.* *f*

Vln.

Vla. *cresc.* *f* *div.*

Vnc. *cresc.* *f*

Cb. *cresc.* *f*

a tempo **K** Again, still, slowly to the end

155 *p* *f* niente bisbig

Hp.

a tempo **K** Again, still, slowly to the end

155 *mp* *p* *gently pizz.* *p* *attacca*

1 *quietly*

2 *mp*

Vln.

Vla. *p*

Vnc. *p*

Cb. *p*

Slap Dance

L No slower than $\text{♩} = 80$, no faster than $\text{♩} = 90$

163

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

pizz.

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

arco *mf*

snap pizz. *ff*

168

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

mf *p sub.* *f*

mf *p sub.* *f*

pizz. *mf* *p sub.*

pizz. *mf* *p sub.*

slap pizz. *mf* *mf* *p sub.*

mf *mf* *p sub.* *sim.*

M

173

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

arco *detached* *mf* *detached* *f*

arco *detached* *mf* *detached* *f*

raucous strum *ff* *sim.* *ff*

raucous strum *ff* *sim.* *ff*

mf *slap pizz.* *f* *ord pizz.* *mf*

178

Vln. 1 *mf* *legato* *sul pont.* *ord.* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *mf* *legato* *sul pont.* *ord.* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *arco* *mf* *sul pont.* *ord. pizz.* *p* *f*

Vnc. *arco* *mf* *sul pont.* *pizz.* *p* *f*

Cb. *mf* *arco* *p* *f*

183

Vln. 1 *f* *detached* *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *detached* *f*

Vla. *p* *ff* *raucous strum* *ff*

Vnc. *p* *slap pizz.* *ff* *raucous strum* *ff*

Cb. *p* *ff* *f* *ord pizz.*

188

Vln. 1 *p* *f* *detached*

Vln. 2 *p* *f* *detached*

Vla. *ff* *f*

Vnc. *ff* *f*

Cb. *p* *f*

193

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

f *p* *f* *detached*

f *p* *f* *detached*

arco *fp* *f*

arco *fp* *f*

fp *f*

slap pizz. *ord. pizz.* *f*

198

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

p sub. cresc.

p sub. cresc.

p sub. cresc.

p sub. cresc.

slap pizz.

ff (sempre)

202

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

ff *div.*

ff *div.*

ff *pizz.*

ff *pizz.*

ord pizz. *slap pizz.*

(ff)

Slow Dance at Moonset

N ♩ = 72, flexible

207 *slow arpeggio*

Hp.

N ♩ = 72, flexible

207

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vnc.
Cb.

214

Hp.

214

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vnc.
Cb.

mf *p* *< mf* *mp*

221

Hp.

mf

p

f

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

mf

mp

p

mf

227

Hp.

p

f

p

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

f

mp

p

f

mf

port.

warmly to the end

233

Hp.

mf sub.

mf

warmly to the end

233

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

mf sub.

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

p

mf

poco

poco

rit.

240

Hp.

rit.

240

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.


Vnc.

Cb.

Step Dance 2

246  (♩ = 112)

Hp.

246  (♩ = 112)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

fierce, detached

f

hand slap

f

pizz. secco

f

hand slap

252

Hp.

252

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

fierce

ff

ff

fierce, detached

div.

f

div.

div.

264

Hp.

264

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

unis.

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

div.

mf cresc.

p

arco

pizz. q

p

mp

268

Hp.

268

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vnc.

Cb.

f

D# C# B# E# F# G# A#

ff

mf

ff

mp

ff

ff

mf

ff

p sub.

p sub.

arco

p sub.

286 **S**

Hp. *f*

Vln. 1, pick up instrument

Vla. *f* *decresc.*

Vnc. *(f)* *decresc.*

Cb. *(f)* *decresc.*

Cb. *arco* *pizz. ϕ* *arco* *pizz. ϕ*

(f) *decresc.*

290 $\text{♩} = 112$ *accel.* $\text{♩} = 115$

Hp.

Vln. 1 *unis.* *div.* *p* *mf*

Vln. 2 *div.* *unis.* *div.* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Vnc. *p* *mf*

Cb. *arco, unis.* *pizz. ϕ* *arco* *pizz. ϕ*

p *mf*

----- (♩ = 124) to the end

294

Hp. *use felt picks* *8va* *f* *hand over hand gl.*

----- (♩ = 124) to the end

294

Vln. 1 *unis.* *f* *div.* *unis.* *ff* *div.*

Vln. 2 *unis.* *f* *ff* *div.*

Vla. *f* *div.* *ff* *unis.*

Vnc. *f* *ff* *div.*

Cb. *arco* *f* *pizz.* *ff*

297

Hp. *ff* *hand over hand gl.*

297

Vln. 1 *ffpp* *ff*

Vln. 2 *ffpp* *ff*

Vla. *ffpp* *ff*

Vnc. *f* *p* *ff*

Cb. *pizz. strum* *f* *ff*

*Hold body in position, motionless, releasing on Conductor's cue.