

Martin Lass String Orchestra Series

A Gypsy Tale

Instrumentation

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Violin 3 (from viola)
Violoncello
Double Bass

In this Level 2.5 - 3.0 (Intermediate) work for student string orchestra, Martin Lass has captured some of the quintessential elements of the gypsy (Romany) style* incorporating Russian and Hungarian folksong elements.

“A Gypsy Tale” is full of gypsy longing, romance, and dancing. The main challenges for student orchestras will be in keeping the gradual accelerandos in the dance sections (from b. 28) under control and in the off-the-string strokes recommended in these same sections. All parts can be played in 1st position except for a few passages in the first violins, the highest of which have ossia alternatives.

The piece can be made shorter or longer by exclusion or inclusion of a final section between bars 60-72 and a segno.

Duration: approx. 5m (with all repeats, sections, and segno)

Duration: approx. 3m 20s (if ending at bar 59 the first time, omitting the section at b. 60-72 and the segno)

* The Romany people have often been referred to derogatorily as “gypsies,” which is a cultural wound for them, so they do not like or use the term themselves. However, their music is popularly called “gypsy music.” This is not intended as any racial slur but is intended to identify and celebrate their special cultural style. Gypsy music is enjoyed by music-lovers across the globe. Martin Lass is a specialist in this style.

A Gypsy Tale

Martin Lass

Andante espressivo ♩=75

Musical score for measures 1-6. The score is for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Andante espressivo with a metronome marking of ♩=75. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes with some slurs and accents.

Musical score for measures 7-13. This section includes first and second endings. The key signature remains one flat. Dynamics are primarily *mf*. The tempo is marked *poco rit.* at the end of the section. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns and melodic lines.

Musical score for measures 14-19. This section begins with a double bar line and the tempo marking *A tempo*. It includes first and second endings. Dynamics are *mf*. The music features a change in texture with some sustained notes and moving lines.

20 *div.*
mp
soli
mf
mp
mf
mp
mp

25 **Lento** ♩=60
mf staccato
mf at the heel
mf at the heel
mf pizz.
mf

accel. unis.

31

(Moderato)

36 *staccato notes increasingly off the string* *più f* *mf* *mf* *mf* *simile*

43 *accel.* *f* *f* *f* *f*

48 *Presto* *Hey!* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

