

SO-279

Grade 1 Very Easy

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# March of the Wooden Soldiers (Simplified)

*Arranged for String Orchestra and Piano*



**By Frank Rodgers**

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## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Piano	1
1 <sup>st</sup> Violin	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Violin	6
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5

## About the Composer

Frank holds two college degrees, a Bachelor of Music Education (Violin Concentration) from Indiana University School of Music and a Master of Science Degree in School Administration from Old Dominion University School of Education. In addition, he was a professional violinist with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra for 30 years and continues performing in a chamber orchestra and string quartet. He has dedicated his writing talents to composing pieces for beginning string orchestras that are fun, easy, and entertaining. Over 90% of his works are original and delightfully entertaining. He considers his pieces to be thought of as "musical desserts"; pieces you do not want to overuse, but nonetheless use appropriately.

Most of his pieces are intentionally designed in such a way that practically all students will experience substantial success the first time they begin their study. Again, one must remember the real purpose of these works is to insure the students "instant success" the very first time they are introduced. Frank firmly believes, instant success is a great motivator and a huge confidence builder which will hopefully encourage them to have the confidence and desire to accept the challenge to study works of a more scholarly nature. To keep things simple, Frank intentionally avoids using slurs as well as low and high fingers, as they tend to dramatically slow down the desired fast learning curve he hopes the students will achieve. Once again, his main goal is to motivate, not complicate. Each piece has a "Foreword" section which outlines the piece and provides teaching tips and suggestions. In addition, each piece has a Treble Clef Viola part which can be used as either a 2nd violin part or as a means of augmenting your viola section.

MSB Publishing is proud to carry Frank's full complement of music and looks forward to his new works.

# March of the Wooden Soldiers

## FOREWORD

**March of the Wooden Soldiers** is the ultimate in program music for the very young string orchestra. Each section of the orchestra gets to demonstrate their skills with military precision. Imagine the following scenario as depicted by the music. The cast of characters are as follows:

Violins: "Alfa" Company  
Violas: "Beta" Company  
Cellos: "Zulu" Company  
Basses: The crabby old drill sergeants  
(Hope they aren't your administrators!)

**Measures 1-3** The companies are falling into formation for a grand parade. Except for the bass, each string section gets to play the one bar rallying theme to get their particular company in order. The bass acts as the dastardly old drill sergeant who insists on a steady count at all times. Therefore he/she keeps strict cadence with his/her quarter notes. None of that triplet jazz for him/her! **Put your metronome on cruise-control!**

**Measure 4** All the troops have finally assembled and are in order. Now the grand parade can begin.

**Measure 5** The parade begins in all its splendor. WHOOPEE! I JUST LOVE A PARADE!

**Measure 23 Call To Battle** Suddenly, the troops are called into battle formation. The breath taking leaps in the violins and quickening pace of tempo signify the sudden tension and the ensuing rush of adrenaline. The troops march faster. **The tempo increases slightly here. Strive for 100+ beats per minute.** Adjust your pagemaker accordingly!

**Measure 29** The Call to Battle was a false alarm! The soldiers are ordered to resume the parade at its original cadence. **Tempo I** The tempo returns back to the original 88 beats per minute.

**Measure 39** The parade winds down and the soldiers return to their barracks for a well-deserved rest.

**STYLE:** In order to imitate the stiff but steady gait of the wooden soldiers **it is very important that all quarter notes in each part be played in a quasi marcato fashion. There must be a space between each quarter note. This is particularly crucial in the bass part.** I did not indicate these markings in the music as I did not want to confuse the young players by cluttering the music with a bunch of dots and dashes for fear they may think they are learning Morse code instead of music. Observe the limited amount of dynamics. Most of them are in the very beginning. I changed texture at various times by resting some voices in order to provide for some variety. Measures 13 - 21 are a good example as the basses lay out for a couple of bars before making an entrance at the cadence figure.

### TECHNICAL POINTS:

1. Each instrument will play on the G, D, and A strings. This is a great piece for developing agility in the art of string crossing.
2. Lots of open string playing in all parts, particularly the cello and bass. There is a mixture of unison and harmony throughout the piece. **Be prepared for tempo changes at Meas. 21 and Meas. 29 as indicated.**
3. Students will learn to count rests and how to make entrances (Meas. 1-4). They will be exposed to independent voicing. For example, see Meas. 13-16 & 25-26. Achieving an understanding of this rhythmic and harmonic independence will be the greatest challenge to the students as the notes are fairly easy.
4. All notes in this piece are in the one octave range of the D major scale with the exceptions being the open G string and the 1st finger on the G string.

I *wood* hope you and your students will thoroughly enjoy the experience. *Wooden* it be lovely if they did! It *wood* for sure make my day.

KEEP A STIFF UPPER BOW!

# March of the Wooden Soldiers

Conductor Score

For String Orchestra and Piano

By Frank M. Rodgers

[Simplified Version]

Andante Maestoso  $\text{♩} = 88$

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is for Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Andante Maestoso with a metronome marking of 88. The dynamics are marked *p* [Soft]. The Violin part features a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide harmonic support with similar rhythmic patterns. The Piano part features a steady accompaniment with triplets.

Musical score for measures 5-10. The score is for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vcl.), Bass (Cb.), and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *f* [Loud]. The Violin part features a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide harmonic support with similar rhythmic patterns. The Piano part features a steady accompaniment with triplets.

# March of the Wooden Soldiers

Conductor Score

This page of the conductor score for 'March of the Wooden Soldiers' covers measures 11 through 20. It is arranged in three systems. The first system includes staves for Violins (Vln.), Violas (Vla.), Cellos (Vcl.), and Contrabass (Cb.), with a bracketed label '[Violins, Violas, Cellos]' below the Cb. staff. The second system includes the Piano and the same string section staves. The third system includes the Violins, Violas, Cellos, and Contrabass staves, with another bracketed label '[Violins, Violas, Cellos]' below the Cb. staff. The Piano part is shown in two systems, with the first system corresponding to measures 11-16 and the second to measures 17-20. The score features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. Measure numbers 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20 are clearly marked at the beginning of their respective staves. The string parts include various rhythmic patterns, often marked with 'V' and '3' (triplets). The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and melodic lines.

# March of the Wooden Soldiers

Call to Battle

Conductor Score

21 *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

Vln. *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

Vla. *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

Vcl. *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

Cb. *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

[Violins, Violas, Cellos]

21 *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

Piano *Slightly Faster* ♩ = 100

29 *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Vln. *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Vla. *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Vcl. *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Cb. *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Piano Solo

29 *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Piano *Tempo I* ♩ = 88

Piano Solo

Strgs. Enter

# March of the Wooden Soldiers

Conductor Score

This page of the conductor score for 'March of the Wooden Soldiers' covers measures 35 through 46. The score is arranged in three systems, each containing staves for Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Contrabasso (Cb.), and Piano. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure numbers 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 46 are clearly marked at the beginning of their respective measures. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and articulation marks. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 0-4 below notes. Dynamic markings like 'V' (Vibrato) are present above notes in measures 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, and 46. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'MSB Publishing' is overlaid across the center of the page.