

SO-295

Grade 1 Easy

\$40.00

Extra Score \$8.00/Extra Parts \$4.00

March of the Wooden Soldiers (Advanced)

Arranged for String Orchestra and Piano



By Frank Rodgers

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Piano	1
1 st Violin	8
2 nd Violin	8
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 work 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

(Advanced Version)

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 21 Call To Battle Suddenly, the troops are called into battle formation. The breath-taking leaps in the violins and the rhythmic drive of 16th notes signify the sudden tension and the ensuing rush of a renegade. **Double time march!**

Measure 25 The Call to Battle was a false alarm! The soldiers are ordered to return to the original cadence.

Measures 35 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 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. Carefully observe all dynamic markings, particularly in the last 8 bars.

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 bass plays 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. The **Call to Battle Section** (meas. 21-24) will be a formidable challenge for all, particularly the violins. For those violinists who are experiencing difficulty in playing the "high d's", I wrote an optional "open d" as indicated by a reduced size notehead surrounded by parenthesis.
3. Lots of open string playing in all parts, particularly the cello and bass. There is a mixture of unison and harmony throughout the piece.
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. 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

[Advanced Version]

Andante Maestoso $\text{♩} = 84-88$

The score is written for Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. It is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is Andante Maestoso, with a metronome marking of 84-88 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, and the second system covers measures 5-10. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often in groups of three or four. The piano accompaniment features chords and arpeggiated figures. Dynamics range from *p* (soft) to *f* (loud). Fingerings and bowings are indicated throughout. A large 'MSB Publishing' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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 includes staves for Violins (Vln.), Violas (Vla.), Cellos (Vcl.), Contrabass (Cb.), and Piano. The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 13 is highlighted with a box. A large 'MSB Publishing' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Violins/Violas/Cellos

Measure	Vln.	Vla.	Vcl.	Cb.
11	V 3	V 3	V 3	0
12	V	V	V	0
13	V	V 3	V	0
14	V	V 3	V	0
15	V 3	V 3	V 3	0
16	V	V	V	0
17	V	V	V	0
18	V	V 3	V	0
19	V 3	V 3	V 3	0
20	V	V	V	0

Piano

Measure	Piano
11	3
12	3
13	3
14	3
15	3
16	3
17	3
18	3
19	3
20	3

March of the Wooden Soldiers

Conductor Score

Call to Battle

Slightly Faster

* "Open D" is optional for players having difficulty playing the "High D"

21 22 23 24

Vln. *ff* [VERY LOUD]

Vla. *ff* [VERY LOUD]

Vcl. *ff* [VERY LOUD]

Cb. *ff* [VERY LOUD]

[Violins/Violas/Cellos] *ff* [VERY LOUD]

21 22 23 24

Piano *ff*

25 26 27 28 29 30

Vln. *Piano Solo* *p* *f* [LOUD]

Vla. *Piano Solo* *p* *f* [LOUD]

Vcl. *Piano Solo* *p* *f* [LOUD]

Cb. *Piano Solo* *p* *f* [LOUD]

25 26 27 28 29 30

Piano *p* *Piano Solo* *f*

Strgs. Enter

March of the Wooden Soldiers

Conductor Score

This page of the conductor score for "March of the Wooden Soldiers" covers measures 31 through 42. 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 3/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark reading "MSB Publishing" is overlaid across the center of the page.

System 1 (Measures 31-36):

- Measures 31-34:** Violin, Viola, and Violoncello parts feature eighth-note patterns. Contrabasso has a simple bass line. Piano accompaniment consists of chords and eighth-note figures.
- Measure 35:** Dynamics change to *f* [LOUD] for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, and *f* [LOUD] for Contrabasso. Piano accompaniment is *f*.
- Measure 36:** Dynamics change to *p* [SOFT] for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, and *p* [SOFT] for Contrabasso. Piano accompaniment is *p*.

System 2 (Measures 37-42):

- Measures 37-38:** Dynamics are *f* [LOUD] for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, and *f* [LOUD] for Contrabasso. Piano accompaniment is *f*.
- Measures 39-40:** Dynamics are *f* [LOUD] for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, and *f* [LOUD] for Contrabasso. Piano accompaniment is *f*.
- Measure 41:** Dynamics are *p* [SOFT] for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, and *p* [SOFT] for Contrabasso. Piano accompaniment is *p*.
- Measure 42:** Dynamics are *f* for Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, and *f* for Contrabasso. Piano accompaniment is *f*.