

PLUCK!

For String Orchestra + Rubber Chickens, Grade 0.5
by Randall Standridge

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass
1 - Optional Piano

Note from the Editor:

Written entirely pizzicato, this Grade 0.5 piece uses only open strings and first finger to help acclimate beginning players to their instruments and reading notes on the staff. Upper strings are played in guitar position, and every player gets a chance to play the rubber chickens! Violin II and Viola are rhythmically homophonic throughout, while Cello and Bass are doubled.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$55.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$5.00



Randall Standridge Music • Jonesboro, Arkansas • 870-558-5035
www.randallstandridge.com • info@randallstandridge.com

PLUCK!

By Randall Standridge, Grade 0.5

Program Notes:

They don't teach you how to play rubber chickens in college. At least, they didn't when I was there. Perhaps music education has progressed since then. Regardless, I never imagined that rubber chickens would become a recurring part of my compositional career, but here we are.

I am primarily known as a composer for concert band, and several years ago I wrote *The Great Rubber Chicken Galop*, a piece that featured these noble instruments prominently. Much to my delight (and perhaps the concern of serious musicians everywhere), the piece became a huge hit and was eventually followed by *Attack of the Rubber Chickens*.

There was, however, a problem.

Every time I posted about the chickens on social media, orchestra directors would inevitably appear in the comments asking some version of the same question:

"When is it OUR turn?"

Well...here you go.

PLUCK! is a work for young string orchestra that reinforces early music literacy skills, using only open and first finger, while also introducing students to the subtle artistry and refined technique of the rubber chicken. The title has a couple of meanings: string players pluck their strings, playing pizzicato throughout the piece, along with, of course, our featured guest instruments that have feathers. Or at least rubber approximations of feathers.

Underneath all of the silliness, however, is something I believe very strongly: humor has a place in music education. Many of my works for young musicians are built around the idea that educational music can teach important concepts while also being fun, entertaining, and memorable. Students are learning how to make music, but they are also learning whether making music is something they want to keep doing. I want them to associate that experience with joy.

I would like to offer a huge thank you to Katie O'Hara LaBrie for helping me make sure that this band composer knew what he was doing and, more importantly, that **PLUCK!** actually works for the needs and abilities of young string players.

So, orchestra directors, your turn has officially arrived. Put down your bows. Grab your instruments. Grab your chickens.

And for those of you who have been asking about ***The Great Rubber Chicken Galop*** or ***Attack of the Rubber Chickens*** for string orchestra...

Stay tuned.

The chickens are coming.

Educational goals of the work:

- Early Pizzicato skills (in guitar position for upper strings)
- Quarter Note and 8th Note rhythmic patterns
- Reading opening strings and 1st finger notes on the G, D, A, and E strings

Rehearsal suggestions:

No bows are used in this piece. Violins and Violas should play the entire piece in "guitar style" rather than on their shoulder for ease of picking up the rubber chickens ("RC"), placing the RCs on their laps when not in use. Cellos should place the RCs on their laps behind their cellos. Basses should place their RCs on an extra music stand, turned flat. Ideally, students will hold up the RCs in their right hands when it's their turn to squawk for more of a spectacle. For the quick transition at m. 57, they may want to leave the RCs on their laps, or they can pick them up during their measures of rest in bars 54 or 55 using their left hands, while continuing to pluck with their right hands.

PLUCK!

Score
Grade 0.5
Duration 1:45

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)

With Pluck! ♩ = 132

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola
(Violin 3)

Cello

Double Bass

Optional Piano

1 2 3 4 5 10

Pick up R.C. Rubber Chicken (S=Squeeze, R=Release)

S R S R

S R S R

S R S R

S R S R

1 1 1

6 7 8 9 10

Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D.B.) are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Piano (Pno.) is in grand staff (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Measures 11 through 15 are shown. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with rests in the strings. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes.

11 12 13 14 15

Measures 16 through 20 are shown. Measure 18 includes the instruction "Pick up R.C." above the Violin 2 staff. The music continues with similar instrumentation and notation as the previous system.

16 17 18 19 20

PLUCK! - Score

3

[illegible]

25 26 27 28 29

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.)

Measures 30 to 34. A large diagonal watermark "Panda Standridge Music Preview Only" is overlaid across the score.

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.)

Measures 35 to 39. Measure 36 is circled and labeled "36".

Annotations in measures 36-39:

- Vln. 2: "Pick up R.C." in measure 36.
- Vla.: "Pick up R.C." in measure 36.
- Vc.: "Pick up R.C." in measure 39.
- D.B.: "Pick up R.C." in measure 39.
- Pno.: "Pick up R.C." in measure 39.

Measure 39 includes specific notation for R.C. (Right C):

- Vln. 2: R.C. (marked with 'x' on the staff), S R S R.
- Vla.: R.C. (marked with 'x' on the staff), S R S R.

div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

40 41 42 43 44

R.C.

S R S R

pizz.

R.C.

S R S R

pizz.

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(46)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

45 46 47 48 49

pizz.

pizz.

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50 51 52

50 51 52