

Stephen Hill

A Short Symphony

*For Chipmunks, Prairie Dogs, Two-Year-Olds, and
Other Cute Little Critters*

String Orchestra
(Grade 2)


SARAHTIM Music Publishing


Instrumentation

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Duration - ca. 4:10


SARAHTIM Music Publishing


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About the Work...

The Omaha Conservatory of Music commissioned this work for their 2022 Sound Waves Music Camp. Their theme for the week was, "Animals". **A Short Symphony** (for *Chipmunks, Prairie Dogs, Two-Year-Old, and Other Cute Little Critters*) is an intentionally playful work written with the young musician in mind. The melodic and accompanying material stays with the keys of D and G Major.

Three short movements depicting "*A Day in the Life*"

Mvt. 1 - Scurrying About (A mixture of both playful pizzicato and arco bowing)

Mvt. 2 - Time for a Nap (A quiet lyric and restful movement)

Mvt. 3 - Full of Life (An energetic final movement to end the day)

About the Composer...

Stephen Hill (b.1958) was born and raised in Southern California. His compositional lineage includes the likes of Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson through study with Philip Westin (Cerritos College, 1976-1978) and most notably with W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas (1978-1980). Stephen continued with graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-83) with composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim and William Hill. He composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music concurrently in both the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Though semi-retired, Stephen still works with students by continuing to teach part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra at Calvary Chapel, La Habra, CA. where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege to compose beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM—a title which comes from simply combining the name of his daughter Sarah and son Timothy. (Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University)

Permission to Copy Parts...

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"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence." J.S.Bach

"The Lord is my shepherd..." (Psalm 23)

"Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God" (Psalm 90:2)

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Playfully ♩=108

I. Scurrying About

Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

The musical score is written for five string instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Playfully' with a quarter note equal to 108 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 8. Measure numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are enclosed in small boxes. Performance markings include 'pizz' (pizzicato) and 'arco' (arco) for the violins, and 'pizz.' (pizzicato) for the cello and string bass. Dynamic markings include 'p' (piano) and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The score features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PERUSAL SCORE' is superimposed over the entire score.

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Vln. 1 *Pizz.* *p* B

Vln. 2 *Pizz.* *p*

Vla. *Pizz.* *p* *arco* *mp*

Cel. *mp* *arco*

St. Bs. *mp* *arco*

9 10 11 12 13

Vln. 1 *arco* *mp*

Vln. 2 *arco* *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Cel. *mp*

St. Bs. *mp*

14 15 16

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The image displays a musical score for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cel.), and Double Bass (St. Bs.). The score is divided into two systems, with measures 17-20 in the first system and measures 21-25 in the second system. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system (measures 17-20) features a melodic line in the violins and a supporting bass line in the lower strings. The second system (measures 21-25) introduces pizzicato (pizz) playing in all instruments, with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). A rehearsal mark 'C' is placed above measure 24. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid across the entire page.

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Musical score for measures 26-30. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cel.), and String Bass (St. Bs.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measures 26-27 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measure 28 features a dynamic marking of *mp* and the instruction *arco* with a bow hair symbol. Measure 29 has a dynamic marking of *p* and the instruction *Arco*. Measure 30 continues the *p* dynamic. A boxed letter 'D' is present above measure 28. A large diagonal watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 31-35. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cel.), and String Bass (St. Bs.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measures 31-35 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A large diagonal watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid on the score.

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II. Time for a Nap

Gently ♩=78

A arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cel.

St. Bs.

p

Arco

p

Arco

p

1 2 3 4 5

B A Tempo

molto rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cel.

St. Bs.

pp

pp

pp

pp

arco

pp

p

6 7 8 9 10

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rit. A Tempo

rit. Divisi

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cel.

St. Bs.

11 12 13 14 15

C Adagio

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cel.

St. Bs.

16 17 18 19 20 21

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III. Full of Life

Playfully ♩=130

Score for measures 1-5. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cel., St. Bs. Dynamics: *f* (Divisi), *pizz.*, *arco*. Measure 4 includes a first ending bracket labeled 'A'.

Score for measures 6-10. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cel., St. Bs. Dynamics: *mp*, *arco*, *pizz.*. Measure 8 includes a first ending bracket labeled 'A'.

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B

Musical score for measures 11-16. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cel.), and String Bass (St. Bs.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 11-12 feature a melody in the strings with a forte (*f*) dynamic and include bowing marks (V) and accents. Measure 13 shows a dynamic change to piano (*p*) and includes the instruction "arco" above the strings. Measures 14-16 continue the melodic line with various dynamics and articulation marks.

11 12 13 14 15 16

C

Musical score for measures 17-21. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cel.), and String Bass (St. Bs.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 17-18 feature a melody in the strings with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and include bowing marks (V) and accents. Measures 19-21 continue the melodic line with various dynamics and articulation marks.

17 18 19 20 21