

Jenny B Peters

CRIPPLE CREEK

An old time fiddle tune
arranged for string orchestra

Includes

- Full Score
- Technical Building Blocks
- Student Improvisation prompts
- Keyboard/Piano Score with
Chord Symbols

GRADE 1

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass



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Instrumentation

- Violin 1
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- Viola
- Cello
- Bass

About this Arrangement: Cripple Creek

This arrangement of *Cripple Creek* serves as an ideal introduction to the drive and energy of American folk music. Historically recognized as a standard banjo solo in the clawhammer tradition, this tune has evolved into one of the most essential pieces in the old-time and bluegrass repertoire. Structured to move students from basic technique to creative performance, it provides a comprehensive framework for exploring the string band tradition.

Comprehensive Performance Materials

Each purchase includes a **Combined Score** that provides both the Building Blocks and the full Orchestra Arrangement for every part. To ensure accessibility for all players, the Orchestra Arrangement features:

- **Regular Parts:** These include the full, authentic folk-style articulations, slides, and syncopated rhythms intended for intermediate students.
- **Simple Parts:** These versions are streamlined for beginners, focusing on the essential melody and rhythm while removing complex articulations, allowing everyone in the ensemble to contribute.

Part 1: The Building Blocks

The Building Blocks are designed as a modular learning system. These parts include chord symbols above the staff, which facilitate several important musical goals:

- **Harmonic Internalization:** Students learn to hear the shifts between the tonic, subdominant, and dominant chords, which are the foundation of the bluegrass sound.
- **Role Clarity:** Students see how their specific part fits into the larger harmonic structure of the tune.
- **Ensemble Flexibility:** The chord symbols allow for easy integration of rhythm instruments like guitar, banjo, or mandolin to create an authentic string band feel.
- **Improvisation Development:** Students are encouraged to create "micro-improvisations" on the existing material in the Building Blocks. Teachers can use "call and response" techniques with a rhythmic backing track to guide this creative development.

Creative Arrangement & Student Agency

The Building Blocks serve as the "raw materials" for performance. This resource encourages **student-led arranging**, where the ensemble can:

- **Build Custom Structures:** Decide the order of sections, such as starting with a solo "kickoff" or ending with a full-ensemble "tag."
- **Experiment with Textures:** Alternate between different groups playing the melody and the rhythmic accompaniment.

- **Cultivate Artistry:** By making these choices, students develop a deeper sense of ownership and artistic identity within the ensemble.

Part 2: The String Orchestra Arrangement

The full String Orchestra Arrangement captures the syncopated energy of the classic tune. It focuses on the melodic "slides" and rhythmic drive that give the tune its signature "mountain" sound.

Authentic Fiddle Techniques

This arrangement introduces students to specific stylistic markers, including:

- **The Fiddle "Slur":** Learning to bridge across the beat to create a fluid, driving sound.
- **Syncopated Bowing:** Mastering the rhythmic "hiccups" and accents that give bluegrass its unique character.
- **Stylistically Distinct Articulations:** Helping students move from a smooth classical stroke to the crisp, energized stroke of a fiddler.

Classroom Support & Audio Resources

Jenny is available to visit your classroom in person or over Zoom. Send an email to jenny@jennypeters.com to set up a visit!

To further support your students' development, **more audio parts for the Building Blocks are available directly from Jenny.** These expanded resources include accompaniment loops at various tempos and multi-part tracks to help students master the style and their own improvisations.

Contact: jenny@jennypeters.com

Website: www.jennypeters.com

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THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF CRIPPLE CREEK

A Pedagogical Resource for String Orchestra

BUILDING BLOCKS MODULES

Arranged and Compiled by Jenny B Peters

PARTS INCLUDED

Each module contains parts for:

- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Piano

CONTENTS OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS

1. **Kick-Off** – Establishing the tempo and stylistic "lift."
2. **Tune** – The primary melodic statement.
3. **Rhythmic Improvisation Ideas** – Building creative rhythmic vocabulary.
4. **Tune with Rhythmic "Fiddle" Feel** – Integrating stylistic bowing.
5. **Bass Line** – The foundational harmonic movement.
6. **Back-up: Chopping** – Introduction to the percussive "chop" technique.
7. **Break: Shuffle Style** – A soloistic variation using the shuffle stroke.
8. **Shuffle Break with Double Stops** – Advanced texture and resonance.
9. **Tag** – A last little bit that students will enjoy playing.

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Cripple Creek Building Blocks

Jenny Peters

1. Kick-Off

Musical score for "1. Kick-Off". The score is in 4/4 time and D major. It features six staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The Violin I and II parts begin with a D4 note, while the Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass parts begin with a D3 note. The Piano part begins with a D4 note. The score consists of 8 measures, with a repeat sign at the end.

2. Tune

Musical score for "2. Tune". The score is in 4/4 time and D major. It features six staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Piano. The Violin I and II parts begin with a D4 note, while the Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass parts begin with a D3 note. The Piano part begins with a D4 note. The score consists of 16 measures, with a repeat sign at the end.

3. Rhythmic Improvisation Ideas

(x) notehead = ghost note

slide finger up to F#

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

4. Tune With Rhythmic "Fiddle" Feel

D G A D A D D slide finger up to F# D A D

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Pno.

Thanks to Andy Reiner for providing this "Fiddle Feel" building block.

5. Bass Line

Score for Section 5: Bass Line. The score is in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It features five staves: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc., and Db., with a grand staff (Pno.) at the bottom. The music consists of a repeating bass line pattern across all instruments, marked with "pizz." (pizzicato). The pattern is: D (quarter), G (quarter), A (quarter), D (quarter), A (quarter), D (quarter), D (quarter), A (quarter), D (quarter). The first measure of each staff includes a "pizz." marking. The score is divided into two systems by a double bar line.

6. Back-Up - Chopping

Score for Section 6: Back-Up - Chopping. The score is in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It features five staves: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc., and Db., with a grand staff (Pno.) at the bottom. The music consists of a repeating bass line pattern across all instruments, marked with "pizz." (pizzicato). The pattern is: D (quarter), G (quarter), A (quarter), D (quarter), A (quarter), D (quarter), D (quarter), A (quarter), D (quarter). The first measure of each staff includes a "pizz." marking. The score is divided into two systems by a double bar line.

Bow at the frog for pitched chops

7. Break - Shuffle Style

Chord progression: D, G, A, D, A, D, D, A, D, A, D.

Annotations: D slide finger up to F#.

First ending: 1. A, D. Second ending: 2. A, D.

The score is for a 4/4 shuffle-style break. It features five string parts (Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc, Db) and a piano accompaniment (Pno). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The Vln parts play eighth-note patterns with accents. The Vla part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Vc and Db parts play a similar eighth-note pattern. The Pno part provides a harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands.

8. Shuffle Break with Double Stops

Chord progression: D, G, A, D, A, D, D, A, D, A, D.

Annotations: Slide up to double stop.

First ending: 1. A, D. Second ending: 2. A, D.

This score is for a shuffle break with double stops. It follows the same instrumentation and key signature as the previous piece. The Vln parts now include double stops (two notes played simultaneously) in addition to the eighth-note patterns. The Vla part continues with its eighth-note accompaniment. The Vc and Db parts also maintain their eighth-note patterns. The Pno part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The first and second endings are identical to the previous piece.

9. Tag

Musical score for "9. Tag" in D major, 4/4 time. The score is arranged for a string quartet and piano.

Instrumentation: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc., Db., and Pno.

Key Signature: D major (two sharps: F# and C#).

Time Signature: 4/4.

Chord Progression: The score features a simple harmonic progression: D major (D-F#-A) in the first measure, G major (G-B-D) in the second measure, D major (D-F#-A) in the third measure, A major (A-C#-E) in the fourth measure, and D major (D-F#-A) in the fifth measure.

Instrument Parts:

- Vln I:** Plays the melody in the first measure (D, G, D) and holds the chord in the second measure (A, D).
- Vln II:** Plays the melody in the first measure (D, G, D) and holds the chord in the second measure (A, D).
- Vla:** Plays the melody in the first measure (D, G, D) and holds the chord in the second measure (A, D).
- Vc.:** Plays the melody in the first measure (D, G, D) and holds the chord in the second measure (A, D).
- Db.:** Plays the melody in the first measure (D, G, D) and holds the chord in the second measure (A, D).
- Pno.:** Plays the melody in the first measure (D, G, D) and holds the chord in the second measure (A, D).

CRIPPLE CREEK

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FIDDLE TUNE

Arranged by Jenny B Peters

INSTRUMENTATION

- **Violin 1**
- **Violin 2**
- **Viola**
- **Cello**
- **Double Bass**
- **Piano** (Optional / Rehearsal)

ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT

This arrangement of *Cripple Creek* is designed for developing string orchestras. It emphasizes stylistic fiddle techniques including the shuffle stroke, open-string drones, and rhythmic percussiveness.

The piece is structured to allow students to experience the melody in various sections, providing opportunities for every instrument to engage with the driving rhythmic pulse of American old-time music.

PERFORMANCE TIME: Approximately 2:15

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Cripple Creek

String Orchestra Arrangement

Jenny Peters

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Contrabass

Piano

3

mf

f

pizz.

mf

mf

D

D

G

A

D

A

D

7

Bow at the frog for pitched chops.

11

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

7

11

D

G

A

D

A

D

D

A

D

15 19

Vln. I 15

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Cb.

Pno. 15 D A D D G A D A D

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 15 through 19. The staves are arranged vertically: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass, and Piano. Measure 15 is marked with a box containing the number 15. Measure 19 is marked with a box containing the number 19. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The Violin I staff has a measure rest in measure 15 and begins in measure 16 with a forte (f) dynamic. The Violin II staff begins in measure 15 with a forte (f) dynamic. The Viola staff begins in measure 15 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The Violoncello and Contrabass staves begin in measure 15 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The Piano staff begins in measure 15 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and includes chord symbols D, A, and G above it. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

23 27

Vln. I 23 *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

Pno. 23 D G A D A D A

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 23 through 27. The staves are arranged vertically: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass, and Piano. Measure 23 is marked with a box containing the number 23. Measure 27 is marked with a box containing the number 27. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The Violin I and Violin II staves have measure rests in measure 23 and begin in measure 24 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass staves have measure rests in measure 23 and begin in measure 24 with a forte (f) dynamic. The Piano staff begins in measure 23 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and includes chord symbols D, G, and A above it. The piano part continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment and bass line pattern as in the first system.

31 35

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *mf*

Cb.

Pno. D A D D G D A D

Detailed description: This is a musical score for measures 31 through 35. The score is written for a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello) and a Piano. The key signature is D major (two sharps). The time signature is 4/4. Measures 31-34 are marked with a box containing '31'. Measures 35-38 are marked with a box containing '35'. The Piano part includes chord markings: D, A, D, D, G, D, A, D. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and accents. The Violin I part has a *mf* dynamic. The Violin II part has a *f* dynamic. The Viola part has a *f* dynamic. The Violoncello part has a *mf* dynamic. The Contrabass part has a *mf* dynamic. The Piano part has a *f* dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and accidentals.