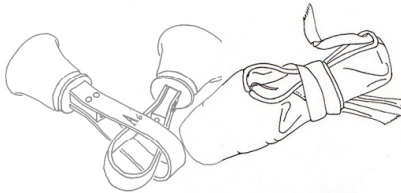


Dance of the Duchesses

from
Romeo & Juliet
by
Sergei Prokofiev

Arranged for Handbells
by
Rima Greer



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Dance of the Duchesses Performance Notes

This short piece was written for the first act of Prokofiev's ballet *Romeo & Juliet*. It's known as *Dance of the Duchesses*, or sometimes *Dance of the Knights*. Either way, it's the stately dance done by the nobles at the Capulet party where Romeo sneaks in and first meets Juliet.

Since then, it's been used for everything from film scores to car commercials. Although most people have no idea about its origins, the general public usually recognizes this piece within the first three measures.

This piece is particularly challenging for handbells because it is, above all, meant to be powerful – a quality bells don't usually embody. Because of that, I have arranged it both above and below the usual 5-6 octave range, in hopes that you will be creative about supporting your bells with additional, more powerful sounds.

I have not used the usual () and [] to indicate which bells can be omitted. Use your discretion, in the spirit of this powerful piece, as best you can.

If you can possibly manage it, find a D8 somewhere to complete the top lines. You won't need it often, but it does make a difference.

Conversely, unless you can get a huge set of chimes to beef up the bass, let me encourage you to swing as many buckets as you have, and support the bass octaves with piano, organ, electric or acoustic bass, or anything else you can come up with that will augment your power quotient. You can even lose the bass octaves all together and use your other instrumentation as a replacement, although, in deference to the "magic trick" we all love, I would hate to see you lose the bass runs in the middle section. Do them. Because you CAN.

Above all, let me encourage you to forget everything you know about the delicacy of bells, and POUND this piece with all your strength and confidence. The folks dancing in Prokofiev's head when he wrote this are the Arrogant Princes of Padua. Make them (even more) proud!

Rima

Dance of the Duchesses

From Romeo & Juliet

S. Prokofiev

Rima Greer

Handbells
with Bass Support

Arrogant & Powerful ♩ = 100

Handbells with Bass Support

Arrogant & Powerful ♩ = 100

mf

5

9

mf

13

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17

mf

Musical score for measures 17-19. The piece is in G major. Measure 17 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and dotted rhythms, while the left hand provides a steady accompaniment of eighth notes.

20

Musical score for measures 20-22. The right hand continues with a melodic line of eighth notes and dotted rhythms. The left hand accompaniment remains consistent with eighth notes.

23

mp

Musical score for measures 23-25. The piece transitions to mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamics. The right hand has a melodic line with dotted rhythms, and the left hand accompaniment consists of eighth notes.

26

mf

Musical score for measures 26-28. The piece returns to mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics. The right hand features a melodic line with dotted rhythms, and the left hand accompaniment consists of eighth notes.

29

Musical score for measures 29-31. The piece continues with a melodic line in the right hand and eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand.

32

f

This system contains measures 32, 33, and 34. The music is in a key with three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The right hand features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 33.

35

f

This system contains measures 35, 36, and 37. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand has a more active accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in measure 36.

38

ff

This system contains measures 38, 39, 40, and 41. The key signature changes to two sharps (D major or F# minor). The right hand has a melodic line with some grace notes, and the left hand has a steady accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measure 38.

42

This system contains measures 42, 43, and 44. The right hand has a melodic line with grace notes, and the left hand has a steady accompaniment.

45

fff

This system contains measures 45, 46, 47, and 48. The right hand has a melodic line with grace notes, and the left hand has a steady accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *fff* (fortississimo) is present in measure 46.

Dance of the Duchesses

49

Musical score for measures 49-51. The piece is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The right hand features a melodic line with eighth notes and dotted rhythms, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. A slur covers measures 49 and 50.

52

Musical score for measures 52-54. The right hand continues with a melodic line, including a triplet in measure 54. The left hand features a bass line with chords and rests. A dynamic marking of *fff* (fortississimo) is present in measure 54. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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