

# Classical FlexTrios

arranged by Andrew Balent

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PROJECT MANAGER & EDITOR: MENDY VARGA

ENGRAVER: KEN PEEK

COVER DESIGN : ELIZABETH C. JOHNSTON

## FOREWORD

These grade 2-3 trios cover a wide range of styles with music from the Baroque era to the 20th Century. Written to be played by any three instruments, it is suggested that if mixed instruments are used, assign the highest pitched instrument to part 1 and the lowest pitched instrument to part 3. Due to the range, it is recommended that part 1 is not played by oboe.

Books are published separately:

**C Treble Clef Instruments** - Flute, Oboe

**Bb Woodwind Instruments** - Bb Clarinet, Bb Tenor Sax

**Eb Instruments** - Eb Alto Sax, Eb Baritone Sax

**Bb Brass Instruments** - Bb Trumpet, Baritone T.C.

**F Instruments** - Horn in F

**Bass Clef Instruments** - Bassoon, Trombone, Baritone B.C., Tuba (3rd line only)

**Percussion**

**Piano Accompaniment (optional)**

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## Performance Suggestions

**Royal Fanfare:** Each part must be balanced to contribute to the solid harmony in this piece. Four measure phrases are used for the opening section, followed by eight measure phrases at measure 11. Be careful to hold the notes at the end of each phrase for their full value. Play the indicated articulation and dynamics for a musical performance.

**Minuet:** This piece alternates between piano and forte dynamic levels, therefore observe the crescendo markings carefully. The second and third parts must support the melody with a solid foundation. Begin by playing four measure phrases but work to build to eight measure phrases. Use a slight ritard in measure 19 building to a full ending.

**Bagatelle:** Bagatelle means "a short piece". Give special attention to articulation and phrase endings. In measures 4 and 8, there is a slight decrescendo, but be careful that the second note is not cut short. The grace notes in measures 3 and 19 lead into the first beat of the measure. The second and third parts must provide a steady rhythmic pulse. Play a nice even crescendo in measures 21 and 22, leading to the forte ending.

**Quadrille:** For the full harmony to be heard in the beginning of this piece, all parts must play solidly together with good balance. At measure 10 the first part should play the eighth notes evenly with correct articulation. Observe the dynamic changes in each section of the piece and play four and eight measure phrases.

**Minuet From The Royal Fireworks:** Play at a steady moderate tempo until the ritard at the end. All three parts must be carefully balanced.

**Largo:** Proper balance and dynamics will make for a musical performance of this piece. Be careful when each part has a different rhythm.

**March Alla Turka:** Play this famous melody at a steady tempo with attention to articulation and dynamic changes. Fingers must move smoothly and evenly. Be ready for the key change at measure 27.

**German Dance:** Perform this piece gracefully with a steady 3/4 rhythm. Hold the note at the end of each phrase for its full value, and work to play eight measure phrases. The second part must maintain even eighth notes starting at measure 19. Carefully observe the dynamic changes.

**Rondo:** Play at a lively tempo with attention to articulation. At measure 19, the second and third parts must keep a very steady tempo to support the fast moving first part.

**Sailor's Song:** Dynamics, articulation, and balance are the main ingredients for an effective performance. From measure 21 to the end, pay attention to the crescendo and ritard.

**Scherzando:** Keep the piece moving in a moderate tempo with two beats to a measure. Scherzando means playful, so keep that in mind when performing this music. Be aware of the dynamic changes and the slight ritard near the end.

**Polka:** Play in a light style with a steady tempo and proper articulation. The first part sets the style at the beginning and the third part must maintain the same style when playing the melody at measure 9.

**Slavonic Dance:** Keep this piece moving with one beat to a measure (dotted half note). Again articulation, dynamics, and ensemble balance are the keys to a musical performance.

**March Of The Tin Soldiers:** Play in a light style with proper articulation and dynamics. The dotted eighth-sixteenth rhythms must be played accurately.

**Country Dance:** Play at a moderate tempo with two beats to a measure. Keep it smooth and flowing with attention to dynamics, and be sure the rhythms are accurate.

**Pizzicato Polka:** Play in a light style with attention to articulation. The melody passes between the first and second parts in measure 4, 8, 13, and 15. The ritards and accelerandi are important for a correct performance.

**Eine Kleine Nachtmusik:** Maintain a steady tempo with rhythmic vitality. Correct articulation and dynamic contrast are very important for a good musical performance.

**Ecossaise:** The ecossaise was an English country dance. Careful attention to balance, articulation, and dynamics are the keys to a good musical performance.

## **ABOUT THE ARRANGER**

Andrew Balent is a leading composer and arranger of educational music with over 500 published compositions and arrangements for band, orchestra, chorus, and instrumental ensembles. Specializing in music for young musicians, Mr. Balent taught in the elementary through high school levels for 30 years in Michigan and received both his Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from the University of Michigan.