

SEVEN MYSTERY MELODIES

ROUNDS FOR LIKE STRING INSTRUMENTS OR STRING ORCHESTRA

BY MATTHEW HOEY

This creative collection presents seven original rounds, each written from the scrambled notes of a traditional tune that students are challenged to identify. Whether in the classroom or on the concert program, the mystery delights one and all.

Students can play these entertaining pieces through from the beginning like traditional rounds. When all four parts of each round are played together, the well-known melody of its related tune appears. The mystery melody cannot be identified in the individual parts, but at the end of each round, an “Unscrambled Ensemble” version can help solve the mystery.

Designed for maximum flexibility, these pieces may be performed with as few as four like instruments or with as many instruments as desired, divided into four groups. There are options for same instrument groups, mixed instrument groups, and string orchestra.

Throughout the instrument part books, courtesy accidentals are used to help students learn correct finger patterns. These markings, along with some bowing patterns, are only marked in their initial appearance. Future appearances are generally not marked to encourage students to remember how to perform them as part of their musical development. The violin and viola parts are identical, and so both are presented in treble clef in the score. The end of this book also includes optional piano accompaniments, which are reproducible.

Below are suggested ways in which the teacher can present these rounds to students.

1. For violins and violas (separate but compatible violin/viola books)

- As four-part rounds for violins and/or violas
- As four-part rounds for violins and/or violas with piano accompaniment
- As four-part rounds with string orchestra accompaniment. If basses are not available, the piano accompaniment works with the cello ensemble part.
- As “unscrambled” four-part pieces. This version also works with the piano and string orchestra accompaniments.
- As string orchestra pieces with cellos playing the melody

2. For cellos and/or string basses (combined cello/string bass book)

- As four-part rounds for cellos
- As four-part rounds for cellos and any/all of the three optional string bass parts
- As four-part rounds for cellos (and any/all of the three optional string bass parts) and piano accompaniment
- As four-part rounds for cello (with or without any/all of the optional string bass parts) and string orchestra accompaniment. If violas are not available, the piano accompaniment works with the violin ensemble part.
- As “unscrambled” four-part pieces. This version also works with the piano and string orchestra accompaniments.
- As string orchestra pieces with the violins/violas playing the melody

3. For string basses (combined cello/string bass book)

- As stand-alone pieces for two or more players, comprising the melody and any/all of the accompaniment parts
- In combination with the cellos (and/or piano accompaniment)
- As string orchestra pieces

The rounds should be played from beginning to end, as with traditional rounds. However unlike with traditional rounds, in these pieces the players finish together (meaning that not all players are at the end of the round when the group finishes). They can be repeated as many times as desired, giving all players the chance to play the entire round.

The “Unscrambled Ensemble” section shows how the rounds sound with the lines uncrossed. Students can take turns playing each of the four lines, including the melody.

I wrote these rounds to help students develop their playing and listening skills in an enjoyable way.

Have fun!
Matthew Hoey

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2. IT'S EASIER THAN SWIMMING

Mystery Melody

Instruct the students to play the scrambled tune as a traditional round. Divide the Violin/Viola players into four groups. The first group will begin the round by playing through part I and moving to part II when finished, continuing this way through parts III and IV and then back to part I. The second group will start part I sixteen measures after the first group and continue through the other parts as well. The next two groups will play the parts in the same manner, beginning sixteen measures after the preceding group. *Parts should finish together, meaning that some players will not be at the end of the page when the piece ends.* The round can be repeated as many times as desired.

Breezy (♩ = 120)

This musical score covers measures 1 through 4. It features four staves for Violin/ Viola, labeled I, II, III, and IV. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 120. The Violin/ Viola parts include various articulations such as accents, slurs, and dynamic markings like 'pizz.' (pizzicato). The Cello and String Bass parts are also present, with 'pizz.' markings and a '(Str. Bass)' instruction for the Cello part. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

This musical score covers measures 5 through 8. It continues the four-staff Violin/ Viola arrangement (I, II, III, IV) and the Cello/ String Bass parts. The notation includes various musical symbols such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Measure numbers 5, 6, 7, and 8 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

2. IT'S EASIER THAN SWIMMING

Mystery Melody

Instruct the students to play the scrambled tune as a traditional round. Divide the Cello players into four groups. The first group will begin the round by playing through part I and moving to part II when finished, continuing this way through the following parts and then back to part I. The second group will start part I sixteen measures after the first group and continue through the other parts as well. The following groups will play the parts in the same manner, beginning sixteen measures after the preceding group. String Bass players can play any of parts I, II, or III and switch parts as needed. *Parts should finish together, meaning that some players will not be at the end of the page when the piece ends.* The round can be repeated as many times as desired.

Breezy (♩ = 120)

The score is divided into two systems of four measures each. The first system contains measures 1-4, and the second system contains measures 5-8. The Cello part is divided into four parts (I-IV) and the String Bass part into three parts (I-III). The Violin and Viola parts are also included. The score includes various musical notations such as fingerings, accents, and dynamics.

If there are no Violas, the Piano may be used with the Violins.

2. IT'S EASIER THAN SWIMMING

Unscrambled Ensemble

Instruct the students to play the unscrambled ensemble four times. Divide the Violin/Viola players into four groups and assign each part to one group. Then have the groups switch parts on each repeat.

What is the name of this tune? **Lightly Row**

Breezy (♩ = 120)

The score is for the piece "Lightly Row" in G major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It is divided into two systems of four measures each. The Violin/Viola parts are labeled A, B, C, and D. The Cello and String Bass parts are labeled "Cello Acc." and "String Bass Acc." respectively. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, stems, and dynamic markings like "pizz." and "4".

Violin/ Viola

A. B. C. D.

Cello Acc.

String Bass Acc.

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

2. IT'S EASIER THAN SWIMMING

Unscrambled Ensemble

Instruct the students to play the unscrambled ensemble four times. Divide the Cello players into four groups. Then have the groups switch parts on each repeat. String Bass players can play any of parts I, II, or III and switch parts as needed.

What is the name of this tune? **Lightly Row**

Breezy (♩ = 120)

The score is divided into two systems, each containing four measures. The first system (measures 1-4) and the second system (measures 5-8) show a rotation of parts among the Cello and String Bass groups. The Cello parts (A, B, C, D) and String Bass parts (I, II, III) are written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The String Bass Melody part is written in bass clef, and the Violin and Viola parts are written in treble clef. The score includes various musical notations such as fingerings, accents, and dynamics.

Cello

A. B. C. D.

String Bass Acc.

I. II. III.

String Bass Melody*

Violin Acc.

Viola Acc.

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

If there are no Violas, the Piano may be used with the Violins.

* To facilitate playability of the melody on String Bass, it has been voiced an octave lower. However, this melody part should only be played when the Bases are playing alone as an ensemble.