

“PENCIL” VANIA POLKA

SUGGESTED INSTRUMENTS

Pencils and Plastic Cups

Staplers

Rachet

Wastebasket

Piano (This part may be played on Boomwhackers®, tone bells, mallet percussion instruments or any other instrument suitable for accompanying the voices.)

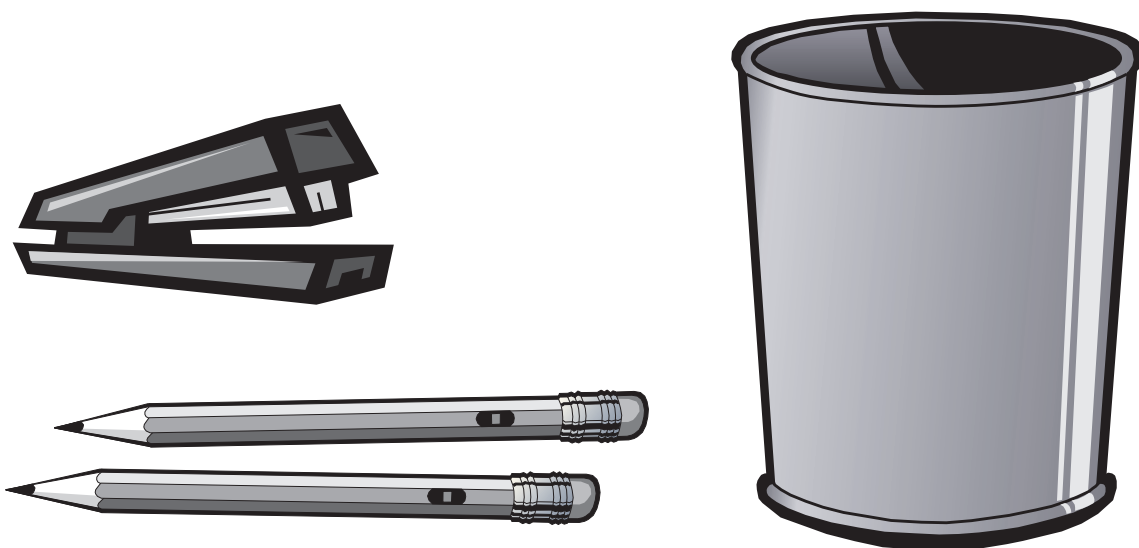
PERFORMANCE NOTES

Pencil and Cup: Hold a plastic cup by the handle or rim so the bottom of the cup is facing right. ♪ = strike the bottom of the cup with the eraser end of a pencil. ♫ = strike the side of the cup with the wooden part of the pencil. Four to six students may play this part.

Stapler: Take the staples out of a stapler and put it on a desk or table. “Play” the stapler by striking it with the palm of the hand. It will be easier to play and look cooler if you have 3 students (or multiples of 3) playing different staplers. By the way, the Swingline model 747, often referred to as the “Steinway of Staplers,” is recommended for this composition.

Wastebasket (empty please!): Turn the can upside down and strike on the bottom or side with the palm of one hand. If necessary, the student may also strike the wastebasket with a drum stick, mallet or wooden dowel. Try to get the sound to “ring” a little.

The first time through, measures 17-18 should stay in tempo, but on the repeat the time should stop briefly while pencils are “accidentally” broken and dropped. At measure 19, the students playing the cup part may dance the polka, or some close approximation of it!



“Pencil”vania Polka

Lively ♩ = 92

2/4

Cup

Player 1 Player 2 Player 3 P1 P2 P3

Stapler

Rachet

Wastebasket

Piano/Vocal

5

C

P1 P2 P3 P1 P2 P3

S

R

WB

Pn./ Vc.

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BLUE DANUBE WALTZ

SUGGESTED INSTRUMENTS

- Bicycle Horns
- Trash Cans and Lids
- Aluminum Cans
- Water Bottles
- Lunch Bags
- Newspapers
- Rachets
- Whistles
- Books
- Hammer on Wood
- Piano (optional; pages 35-40 may be reproduced for the pianist)



PERFORMANCE NOTES

Round up some bicycle horns, trash can lids, aluminum cans, water bottles, paper bags, newspapers, rachets, whistles, doorbells and anything else you and your students can think of that's clanky and noisy—including the kitchen sink! Use all these items to fill in the “holes” on the piece formerly known as the *Blue Danube Waltz*.

Here are just two examples of ways to stage this piece...you can probably come up with a dozen more!

1. Preset all the sound effects/noises where your students can get to them easily, but where the audience can't see them. Put your “serious” percussionists in front, wearing white gloves or some other persnickety costume pieces. Let them take some time getting situated before you begin. They should have a somewhat arrogant air, as though they were getting ready for their Carnegie Hall premier. Choreograph the sound effects/noises so the various “instruments” appear quickly at their entrance and disappear just as quickly. The “serious” percussionists should act surprised by these noises and try to catch whoever is making these wacky sounds during their solos.
2. Preset all the sound effects/noises on tables before the concert. Have your students adopt a serious, formal concert pose throughout the piece—the contrast between the “concert” attitude of the performers and the various noises they are making can be very effective. You might even want to conduct with an oversize baton, *a la* Lawrence Welk.

There is an optional piano part that may be used instead of the CD.

The sounds in the “non-serious” percussion part are only suggestions...feel free to use whatever you like!

The Blue Danube Waltz

Arranged for string orchestra (on the CD) and everything + the kitchen sink

Johann Strauss, Jr.

Waltz ♩ = 172

Percussion 1 (opt.)
("Serious")

Triangle

Percussion 2
("Not Serious")

Bike Horns

Piano

mf

6

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Trash can lids

Stomp on empty soda

Pn.

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11

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pn.

cans (*please recycle*)

Rip newspapers (*remember to recycle*)

16

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pn.

Finger Cymbals

Police whistles (*different pitches*)

21

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pn.

Slam shut books

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