



# Kaitlin White

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## THE FAIRY DANCE

*For violin, cello, bass clarinet and flute*

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**The Fairy Dance** was influenced by Karl Wilhelm Diefenbach's 1895 painting and Newfoundland's traditional music and folklore. The painting depicts fairies rising from the brush and dancing together in a formation that resembles the Northern Lights.

Diefenbach's work reminded me of Newfoundland and its folklore for the boreal vegetation shown in the painting, similar to the island's terrain. It was a common superstition among Newfoundlanders that fairies who lived in the woods would emerge in the middle of the night to dance and cause mischief.

Newfoundland's traditional music was largely inherited and influenced by Irish folk music. This piece features characteristics of traditional music passed on from Ireland to Newfoundland, including the instrumentation—specifically the violin, which is one of two national instruments of Ireland (the other is the harp) and the flute—extensive use of ornamentation, body percussion, parallel activity, and Dorian and Mixolydian modes.

The piece's opening is meant to resemble the night's tranquillity before the opening melody enters to depict the fairies beginning to emerge from their hiding places. The rapid arpeggios in the violin mimic the flickering of the Northern Lights which the painted fairies resemble. The transition to the subordinate melody takes the properties of a reel and represents the fairies beginning their dance.



# The Fairy Dance

Inspired by Karl Wilhelm Diefrenbach's 1895 painting

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eerily and with freedom ♩. = 76

First system of the musical score. It features four staves: Flute, Bass Clarinet, Violin, and Cello. The Flute part begins with a melodic line in 6/8 time, marked *pp* (pianissimo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic line starting in the fourth measure, marked *pp*. The Violin and Cello parts are currently silent, indicated by whole rests.

Second system of the musical score. It features four staves: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), and Cello (Vc.). The Flute part continues its melodic line, marked *f* (forte) and *pp*. The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic line starting in the first measure, marked *pp*. The Violin part has a melodic line starting in the first measure, marked *pp*. The Cello part has a bass line consisting of sustained chords, marked *pp*. The system concludes with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic marking.

Grace notes are to be played before the beat

Trills are to be played diatonically

Accidentals apply to the whole bar

\* Optional detail

2 **A**

## The Fairy Dance

Fl. *p* *mp*

B. Cl.

Vln. <sup>14</sup> *p*

Vc.

Fl. *p* *mp* *p*

B. Cl.

Vln. <sup>18</sup> *pp* *ppp*

Vc.

Fl. *pp* *flz.*

B. Cl.

Vln. <sup>23</sup> *pp* *p* *pp*

Vc. *mp* *pp*

# The Fairy Dance

3

29 **B**

Fl. *mp* *pp*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

Vln. 6

Vc.

35 *rit.*

Fl. *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. *mp* *pp*

Vln. 6

Vc. *n*

40 *accel.*

Fl. *mp*

B. Cl.

Vln. 6

Vc. *ppp*

Fl. *pp*

B. Cl.

Vln. *p*

Vc. *pp*

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

\*Audibly tap your foot on each quarter note to create a groove

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

*f*