

# La Bruja

## “The Witch”

For String Orchestra, Grade 2.5  
by Jorge Vargas (BMI)

### Instrumentation

1 - Full Score  
8 - Violin 1  
8 - Violin 2  
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)  
5 - Viola  
5 - Cello  
5 - Bass\*  
1 - Optional Guitar

### Note from the Editor:

In this grade 2.5 work, written in a minor, students will be exposed to G#'s both on the D and G strings. All parts remain in first position, though an optional shifting fingering is provided for 1st Violins. A Violin 3 part is provided as an alternative/enhancement to Viola. \*A Cello 2 part that doubles the Bass is available as a free download.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - \$55.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00**

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# La Bruja

## “The Witch”

By Jorge Vargas, Grade 2.5

### **Program Notes:**

*La Bruja* tells the mischievous tale of “the witch.” A favorite with mariachi groups due to its hauntingly beautiful melody, *La Bruja* is the perfect introduction to folk songs from Veracruz! Enjoy the waltz-like melody countered with traditional Mexican folk rhythms that will definitely make you want to sway and dance to the music.

### **About the music:**

*La Bruja* is a Son Jarocho, which means it originated from the Mexican state of Veracruz. The instruments that are associated with this type of music are the jarana (a small, guitar-like instrument), the requinto jarocho (a small guitar-like instrument plucked with a long pick called an espiga, that is made out of bull horn), and an arpa jarocho (a five octave harp with no pedals). There is also an accompanying dance, which involves placing a candle on your head through the entire dance. The optional guitar part in this arrangement creates an atmosphere that evokes the true spirit of the work.



### **About the Composer**

Jorge L. Vargas is a band director at Memorial Junior High in Eagle Pass, TX. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from The University of Texas-San Antonio and a Master's Degree in Education from Lamar University. Mr. Vargas has written and arranged for concert band, marching band, string orchestra, and mariachi ensemble. His music has been performed at many festivals and competitions by high school groups and by professional groups alike. His band compositions have been published by Grand Mesa Music, Alfred Music, Excelcia Music, and Randall Standridge Music Publications. Several of his band and string orchestra compositions appear on various state music lists throughout the country. Jorge's compositions have also been performed at the Midwest Clinic and ASTA National Conference. Jorge is a member of BMI, the Texas Band Masters Association and the Texas Music Educators Association.

# La Bruja

"The Witch"

Traditional Mexican Folk Song  
Arr. Jorge Vargas  
(BMI)

Score  
Grade 2.5  
Duration 1:50

**Misterioso** ♩ = 132

Violin 1 *mf*

Violin 2 *mf*

Viola *mf*

Cello *mf*

Double Bass *mf*

Optional Guitar *mf*

D min A min sim. throughout

2 3 4 5

10

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f*

D min E7 A min D min

6 7 8 9 10 11

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12 13 14 15 16 17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Gtr.

A min D min6 E7 A min

18 19 20 21 22 23

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Gtr.

div. mp L1 L1 pizz. mp A min E7 mp

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26

Musical score for measures 24-29. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Guitar. Measure 26 is marked with a box containing the number 26. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. Chords for guitar are A min, G, F, and E7. Performance markings include accents, slurs, and a 'div.' marking for the Viola.

Vln. 1 *mf* *mp*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

D.B. *mf* *mp*

Gr. A min A min G F E7 *mf* *mp*

24 25 26 27 28 29

34

Musical score for measures 30-35. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Guitar. Measure 34 is marked with a box containing the number 34. Dynamics include *mf*. Performance markings include accents, slurs, and a 'arco' marking for the Double Bass.

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

Gr. A min *mf*

30 31 32 33 34 35

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Musical score for measures 36-41. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Guitar (Gtr.).

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef, notes: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half).
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef, notes: G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half).
- Vla.:** Alto clef, notes: G3 (half), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (half).
- Vc.:** Bass clef, notes: G2 (half), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (half).
- D.B.:** Bass clef, notes: G2 (half), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (half).
- Gtr.:** Treble clef, chords: Dmin6 (measures 36-37), E7 (measures 38-39), A min (measures 40-41). Includes a 'div.' marking at measure 39.

Measure numbers: 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41.

Musical score for measures 42-47. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Guitar (Gtr.).

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef, notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half).
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef, notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half).
- Vla.:** Alto clef, notes: G3 (half), A3 (quarter), B3 (quarter), C4 (quarter), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (half).
- Vc.:** Bass clef, notes: G2 (half), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (half).
- D.B.:** Bass clef, notes: G2 (half), A2 (quarter), B2 (quarter), C3 (quarter), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (half).
- Gtr.:** Treble clef, chords: A min (measures 42-43), G (measure 43), F (measure 43), E7 (measures 44-45), Dmin6 (measures 46-47), E7 (measures 47-47). Includes a 'div.' marking at measure 45.

Measure numbers: 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47.

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52

Musical score for measures 48-53. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Guitar. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measures 48-50 are marked with *mp*. Measure 52 is boxed with the number 52 and also marked with *mp*. The guitar part shows chords A min and D min. Measure numbers 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, and 53 are printed below the guitar staff.

Musical score for measures 54-59. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Guitar. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The guitar part shows chords A min, D min6, E7, and A min. Measure numbers 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, and 59 are printed below the guitar staff.

60

Musical score for measures 60-64. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Guitar. The dynamics are marked *mf*. The guitar part includes chords: D min, A min, and E7. Measure numbers 60, 61, 62, 63, and 64 are indicated at the bottom.

68

Musical score for measures 65-69. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Guitar. The dynamics are marked *f*. The guitar part includes chords: A min and D min. There are markings for "Opt. -1" and "2" above the violin staves. Measure numbers 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69 are indicated at the bottom.



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Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts feature melodic lines with accents and fingerings (3, 2, 1). The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and accents. The Double Bass (D.B.) part has a steady bass line. The Guitar (Gtr.) part shows chords: A min, D min6, and E7. Measure numbers 70, 71, 72, 73, and 74 are indicated at the bottom.

This section features a dramatic increase in volume, marked with *ff* (fortissimo). The Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts play chords with accents. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts play chords with accents and a *div.* (divisi) marking. The Double Bass (D.B.) part plays chords with accents. The Guitar (Gtr.) part shows chords: A min, E7, A min, E7, and A min. Measure numbers 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79 are indicated at the bottom.

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