

# *El Pollo Ricardo*

*Luis Alberto Fernandez*

*Arr. David Scott*

ASCAP

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Complete String Orchestra Instrumentation

1 - Full Score

1 - Solo Violin

10 - Violin I

10 - Violin II

8 - Viola

8 - Violoncello

6 - Double Bass

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## About the music –

*El Pollo Ricardo* was written in 1911 by Luis Alberto Fernández, a young man from Uruguay who was a policeman by day and a tango musician at night. The title refers to a tango dancer friend of his named Ricardo Scandroglio, whom he affectionately called “Mi Pollo”. *Pollo* is Spanish for “chicken” - maybe he was an awkward dancer?! This tango became very popular in the 1940’s in Argentina when the *orquesta* of Carlos Di Sarli recorded it three times. There have been over thirty other recordings of this fun little character piece throughout the years.

### Performance notes:

As with most tango music, this piece is all about character. The fun in this music comes from the contrasts (piano and forte, staccato and legato), which can be exaggerated to an almost comical extent. The opening staccato bowstroke should be very dry and short, off the string close to the frog. The effect will be much like the clucking of a flock of chickens (although hopefully more synchronized)!

The pianissimo in bar 48 can be almost inaudible, with the forte seven bars later coming as a complete surprise. The pianissimo can be accomplished by using very little bow, almost “ghosting” the notes.

The violin solo (m. 56) can be very free rhythmically. The written rhythm is just a suggestion, and the soloist should feel free to take time wherever they like, as long as they make it up by fitting in the rest of the notes before the next downbeat.

*Espressivo* (*espress.*) means just what it sounds like – play expressively. Tango violin style traditionally has a very wide, slow vibrato.

The final two notes (loud-soft) may feel uncomfortable at first, but it’s a traditional tango ending that works in spite of (or because of) its silliness. When done correctly, the audience can’t help but smile!

## About the composer -

*David Scott* has been composing and playing the violin since before he can remember. As a four-year-old he began violin studies in the Suzuki method, a tradition which his own children have continued. He attended Indiana University and Northwestern University, where in addition to his studies on violin, he composed “classical” music, a musical, and countless pop songs with his friends. Now a professional violinist in the Denver area, his compositions have been played by the Colorado Symphony, the Colorado Chamber Players, and in nearly one hundred schools around the area by the Up Close and Musical ensemble.

# El Pollo Ricardo

Full Score

LUIS ALBERTO FERNANDEZ

Arr. DAVID SCOTT

(ASCAP)

**Fast and sinister**

♩=136

Violin I *mf*

Violin II *mf*

Viola *mf*

Violoncello *mf*

Double Bass *mf*

5 6 8

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf*

Vc. *pizz.*

Db.

GRADE 4

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Full Score

2 9 10 11 12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. arco *mf*

Db. arco *mf*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

13 14 15 16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *ff* pizz. *p* *mf* arco *f*

Db. *ff* pizz. *p*

*p*

*f*

*f*

*f*

\* Use slow bow on the pickup, then a big pull with the bow on the downbeat

Full Score

17 18 19 20

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

arco

Db.

*f*

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21 22 23 24

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*f*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

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Full Score

4

25 26 27 28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mp*

*mf*

pizz.

29 30 31 32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*f*

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33 *legato* 34 35 36

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f* *legato*

Vla. *f* *legato*

Vc. *f* *legato*

Db. *f*

37 38 39 40

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*



Full Score

6

41 42 43 44

Vln. I *f* *legato*

Vln. II *f* *legato*

Vla. *f* *legato*

Vc. *f* *legato*

Db. *f* (pizz.)

45 46 47 48

Vln. I *pp* arco **Tiptoe!**

Vln. II *pp* arco

Vla. *pp* arco

Vc. *pp* arco

Db. *pp*

*pizz.*



Full Score

49 50 51 52

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco

*pp*

53 54 55 56

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mf*

gli altri

*f*

arco

*p*

solo legato, con rubato

Full Score

8

57 58 59 60

Vln. I *secco*

Vln. II *secco*

Vla. *secco*

Vc.

Db. *p*

61 62 63 64

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mp*

65 *espress.* 66 67 68

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *mp*

Db. *mp*

69 70 71 72

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *pizz.*

Db. *pizz.*

Full Score

10

73 74 75 76

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. arco mp

Db. arco mp

77 78 79 80

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. ff pizz. arco sf p

Db. ff pizz. arco sf p