

# Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair & Oh! Susanna

for String Orchestra

by Stephen Foster  
arr. Lennie Niehaus (BMI)

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Complete String Orchestra Instrumentation

10 - Violin 1  
10 - Violin 2  
8 - Violin 3 (optional)  
8 - Viola  
8 - Cello  
6 - Contrabass  
1 - Piano (optional)  
1 - Snare Drum (optional)  
1 - Bass Drum (optional)

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## About the music –

In 1850, Stephen Foster married Jane Denny McDowell, whose nickname was “Jennie.”

Considered America’s first great songwriter, Foster (1826-1864) wrote “Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair” as a parlor song with his wife Jane McDowell in mind:

I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair,  
Borne, like vapor, on the summer air;  
I see her tripping where the bright streams play,  
Happy as the daisies that dance on her way.  
Many were the wild notes her merry voice would pour.  
Many were the blithe birds that warbled them o’er:  
Oh! I dream of Jeanie with the light brown hair,  
Floating, like a vapor, on the soft summer air.

At the age of 21 Foster wrote the minstrel song “Oh! Susanna,” which was first performed in Andrew’s Eagle Ice Cream Saloon in Pittsburg, PA on September 11, 1847. It was first published in 1848. Foster received 2 cents per copy of sheet music sold, which convinced him to become America’s first fully professional songwriter. Susanna may refer to Foster’s deceased sister Charlotte, whose middle name was Susannah.

“Oh! Susanna” became a popular to sing for those going west to pursue the California Gold Rush. It is about a man going to New Orleans to see his beloved Susanna and is Foster’s most frequently sung song:

I came from Alabama  
Wid my banjo on my knee,  
I’m g’wan to Louisiana,  
My true love for to see,  
It rained all night the day I left  
The weather it was dry,  
The sun so hot I froze to death  
Susanna don’t you cry.

Oh! Susanna Oh! Don’t you cry for me  
I’ve come from Alabama wid mi banjo on my knee.

## About the composer -



Born into a musical family, alto saxophonist, composer and arranger Lennie Niehaus graduated from Cal State Los Angeles where he majored in theory and composition. In 1951, he auditioned and was selected to play in Stan Kenton’s band. Soon drafted into the army, he played oboe in the concert band and formed various jazz groups. While in the army, he met Clint Eastwood, who was a jazz fan. Upon his discharge he was rehired by Stan Kenton as a saxophonist. During his tenure with Stan, he wrote between 150-200 arrangements and compositions, many of which were recorded.

After 5 years with Stan, Lennie returned to Los Angeles to concentrate on his writing. He wrote for TV and orchestrated for Jerry Fielding, a film writer. In addition, he wrote a series of seven books for young saxophone players to play with a jazz conception. Lennie’s relationship with Fielding, who was writing several movies for Clint Eastwood, renewed his friendship with Clint. With Fielding’s untimely death, Eastwood asked Lennie to compose music for the movie “Tightrope.” This collaboration evolved into many other movies, such as “Bird,” “Unforgiven,” “The Bridges of Madison County,” “Space Cowboys.”

In addition, Mr. Niehaus wrote the jazz score “Lush Life,” for which he received an Emmy, and the music for “Pochahontas II” and many other movies for television and cable. He was commissioned to write a jazz suite as a tribute to Clint Eastwood, which was performed by the Carnegie Hall Jazz Orchestra and conducted by him. In 2003, he had the honor of conducting the Boston Symphony Orchestra, performing the music of “Mystic River.” The following year he was asked by the BBC to play in,

and conduct, their jazz orchestra in London. After returning home from England, he recorded with his octet “Live at the Lighthouse at Hermosa Beach.” Mr. Niehaus remains active as a prolific composer, arranger, and performer.

# Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair & Oh! Susanna

for String Orchestra

Score

Stephen Foster

arr. by Lennie Niehaus (BMI)

ANDANTE MODERATO ♩ = 63

Poco rall. 3 a tempo

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Contrabass

Piano (Optional)

Snare Drum (Optional)

Bass Drum (Optional)

*p* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp*

*p* *mf* *mp*

Gently

Gently

6

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Pno.

6

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

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This image shows a page of a musical score for measures 11 through 14. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass, Piano, Snare Drum, and Bass Drum. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score features dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte), and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A large, semi-transparent watermark for 'IMMUSIC PUBLISHERS INC.' is overlaid across the center of the page.

16 **Poco rall.** 17 *a tempo* *rit.*

Vln. I *mf* > *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* > *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mf* > *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf* > *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mf* > *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mf* > *mp* *mf*

S. Dr. *mf* > *mp* *mf*

B. Dr. *mf* > *mp* *mf*

**22 ALLEGRETTO** ♩ = c. 132

"OH! SUSANNA"

[illegible]



26

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Pno.

26

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

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[illegible]

This musical score is for measures 36 through 40 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Vln. I** (Violin I): Treble clef, starting with a rest in measure 36, then playing a melody starting in measure 37.
- Vln. II** (Violin II): Treble clef, playing a melody throughout.
- Vla.** (Viola): Alto clef, playing a melody throughout.
- Vc.** (Violoncello): Bass clef, playing a melody throughout.
- Cb.** (Contrabass): Bass clef, playing a melody throughout.
- Pno.** (Piano): Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), playing a melody throughout.
- S.Dr.** (Snare Drum): Percussion clef, playing a rhythmic pattern throughout.
- B. Dr.** (Bass Drum): Percussion clef, playing a rhythmic pattern throughout.

The score is marked with a tempo of **Allegretto** and a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The dynamics range from **f** (forte) to **ff** (fortissimo). The score is watermarked with 'TRM MUSIC PUBLISHER, INC.' and the website 'http://trnmusic.com'.

[illegible]

46

Vln. I

*f*

*ff*

Vln. II

*f*

*ff*

Vla.

*f*

*ff*

Vc.

*f*

*ff*

Cb.

*f*

*ff*

Pno.

*f*

*ff*

S.Dr.

*f*

*ff*

B. Dr.

*f*

*ff*

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