



Under the Big Tent

MATT ARNETT

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5

For Preview Only
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About the Composer



Matt Arnett graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education in April 2021 and currently teaches middle school orchestra in Fauquier County, Virginia. In 2019, Matt was recognized by the National Association for Music Education for his original brass quintet, Achilles, which was the winning submission in their annual Student Composers Contest, collegiate division. Matt was honored again in 2021 by NAFME for his composition for wind ensemble, Broken Mind, Beautiful Life.

Under the Big Tent

Step right up! "Under the Big Tent" is inspired by the energy and drama of a circus. I picture the dramatic dynamic changes at the beginning as the playful antics of a Clown, the swooping melody at M.19 as a trapeze artist, and the low melody at M.34 as the stomping feet of exotic animals, all leading up to the grand finale.

The piece switches between C natural and C# constantly. Pay close attention to the accidentals and remember to go back to C natural at the end of the measure! For the rapid-fire thirds in the main melody (e.g., M.3, M.28), I recommend leaving the first finger on the A String, but keeping the second finger off entirely (and third fingers for Cellos) to make the passage easier to play. Keep your fingers close to the strings as you switch back and forth, and you'll be much more likely to play in tune!

Much of the energy of the piece comes from the dynamics. Draw your audience in close with soft *pizzicatos* at M.51, then explode with sound from M.57 to the end! The greater a difference you can make, the more impactful your performance will be. Good luck, and have fun!



mattarnettmusic.com



[@mattarnettmusic6805](https://www.youtube.com/@mattarnettmusic6805)



[@KendorMusicInc](https://www.youtube.com/@KendorMusicInc)

Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Under the Big Tent

MATT ARNETT

Lively ♩ = 136+

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

4

3

1 2 3 4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

5 6 7 8

11

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

9 10 11 12 13

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

14 15 16 17 18

Detailed description: This system contains measures 14 through 18. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. All parts begin with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Violin I and II parts play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 19 is indicated by a box containing the number 19.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

19 20 21 22 23

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 23. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The Violin I and II parts play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. A large diagonal watermark reading "For Preview Only" and "Kendor Music Publishing" is overlaid across the score.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

24 25 26 27

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 through 27. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The Violin I and II parts play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics include *f* and *p* (piano). Measure 29 is indicated by a box containing the number 29.

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

28 29 30 31 32

34

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

33 34 35 36 37

42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

38 39 40 41 42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Musical score for measures 43-47. The score is for five string parts: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music consists of rhythmic patterns with some rests and dynamic markings.

43 44 45 46 47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pizz.

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

51

Use LH to dampen open strings on off-beats (short ring)

Musical score for measures 48-52. This section includes dynamic markings *p* and *f*, and the instruction "Pizz." (pizzicato). A box around measure 51 contains the number "51". A performance instruction at the bottom of the Bass staff reads "Use LH to dampen open strings on off-beats (short ring)".

48 49 50 51 52

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Arco

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

Musical score for measures 53-57. This section includes the instruction "Arco" (arco) and dynamic markings *f* (forte). The music features more complex rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

53 54 55 56 57

59

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

58 59 60 61

Detailed description: This system of the musical score covers measures 58 to 61. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 58 and 59 are marked with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic, while measures 60 and 61 are marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The music consists of rhythmic patterns with some melodic lines in the upper staves and more harmonic support in the lower staves.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

62 63 64 65 66

Detailed description: This system of the musical score covers measures 62 to 66. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 62 and 63 show some rests in the upper staves. Measures 64 and 65 continue the rhythmic patterns, and measure 66 concludes the system. Dynamics are not explicitly marked in this system.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

67 68 69 70 71

Pizz. Arco
Pizz. Arco
Pizz. Arco
Pizz. Arco

Detailed description: This system of the musical score covers measures 67 to 71. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 67 and 68 are marked with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. Measures 69 and 70 are marked with a piano (p) dynamic and include performance instructions for Pizzicato (Pizz.) and Arco. Measure 71 is marked with a forte (f) dynamic and includes performance instructions for Pizzicato (Pizz.) and Arco. The music shows a transition in texture and dynamics across the measures.

