

# Three's Company

for Guitar Trio  
by  
Andrew Forrest

This is a set of six trios for players of standards between grades I and III (as per The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, London or Trinity Guildhall, London). Whilst all are of modest difficulty, they all highlight different problems of ensemble playing, be it the handling of polyphony, playing off-beat rhythms, or blending tonally and dynamically. But first and foremost, they are fun to play.

## Old Swansea Town

This arrangement makes use of imitation, usually the second part imitating the first although the third part gets its chance towards the end.

## Beijing Street

Guitar 3 must provide a powerful driving pulse in the opening measures (on the accented bass notes). Guitars 1 and 2 should try to effect the staccato articulation. Guitar 1's part in the second section is tricky until the left-hand work is streamlined. Practise the slurs and also hold the 1st. finger on A for the second half of each measure. Guitar two must be bold and strong in this section.

## Askham

The rhythms of this piece are trickier to read than to play. Always keep the tone warm and blending to give a consistent harmonic effect. The eight-eight section may look worrying but the fingering is simple. The eighth notes are grouped to reflect the phrasing to be achieved - note that the parts are not always the same in this respect.

## Ukraine Dance

Probably the hardest piece of the set. It's fast, guitar 2 has to cope with off-beat notes, there are dramatic changes in tempo and dynamics .... but we all need a little challenge, don't we?

## Dashing Away with a Smoothing Iron

An easier piece. Count two in a bar and play it with a well accented beat.

## The Skye Boat Song

A well-loved Scottish song. No dynamics are indicated but generally aim for a gentle melancholy and play as expressively as you can. Tempo about 60 dotted crotchets (quarter notes) per minute.

*In the event of a public performance, please include  
the composer's and arranger's name on the programme.*

*<http://www.forrestguitarembles.co.uk>*

# Three's Company

## 1. Old Swansea Town

Arranged by  
Andrew Forrest

♩ = c. 132

The musical score is arranged for three guitars (Guitar 1, 2, and 3) in a three-staff system. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked as approximately 132 beats per minute (♩ = c. 132). The score is divided into three systems of four measures each, with measure numbers 1, 6, and 10 indicated at the start of each system.

**System 1 (Measures 1-4):**  
Guitar 1: Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 1 has a quarter note G4. Measure 2 has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 3 has a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. Measure 4 has a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4. Fingering: 3, 2, 4, 2.

Guitar 2: Starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 1 has a quarter rest. Measure 2 has a quarter note G4. Measure 3 has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 4 has a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. Fingering: 3.

Guitar 3: Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 1 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 2 has a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3. Measure 3 has a quarter note F#2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note A2. Measure 4 has a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note D3. Fingering: 3, 2, 3, 3, 2, 2.

**System 2 (Measures 5-8):**  
Guitar 1: Measure 5 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 6 has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 7 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 8 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. Fingering: 3, 2.

Guitar 2: Measure 5 has a quarter note G4. Measure 6 has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 7 has a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. Measure 8 has a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4. Fingering: 4, 2.

Guitar 3: Measure 5 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 6 has a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3. Measure 7 has a quarter note F#2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note A2. Measure 8 has a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note D3. Fingering: #4, 2, 3.

**System 3 (Measures 9-12):**  
Guitar 1: Measure 9 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure 10 has a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. Measure 11 has a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Measure 12 has a quarter note D4, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note B3. Fingering: 4, 2.

Guitar 2: Measure 9 has a quarter note G4. Measure 10 has a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. Measure 11 has a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. Measure 12 has a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4. Fingering: 4, 2.

Guitar 3: Measure 9 has a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 10 has a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3. Measure 11 has a quarter note F#2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note A2. Measure 12 has a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, and a quarter note D3. Fingering: 4, 2.

14

mp

p

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 14 through 18. It features three staves in G major. The top staff has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* at the end. The middle staff has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* at the end. The bottom staff has a bass line with a dynamic marking of *p* at the end. There are hairpins indicating a crescendo in the middle and bottom staves.

19

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 22. It features three staves in G major. The top staff has a melodic line. The middle staff has a melodic line. The bottom staff has a bass line. There are hairpins indicating a crescendo in the middle and bottom staves.

23

rall. . . . .

f

f

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 23 through 26. It features three staves in G major. The top staff has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The middle staff has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*. The bottom staff has a bass line with a dynamic marking of *f*. A *rall.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the first measure of this system, with a dotted line extending across the system. The system ends with a double bar line.

# 2. Beijing Street

Andantino, ♩ = 120

Andrew Forrest

V

Guitar 1 *f*

Guitar 2 *f*

Guitar 3 *f*

5

I

Fine

9

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

13

*f*

*p*

3 0 1 1 4

This system contains measures 13, 14, and 15. The top staff features a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and a flat key signature. The middle staff has a piano part with a forte (*f*) dynamic, including a four-fingered chord in measure 14. The bottom staff shows a bass line with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes fret numbers 3, 0, 1, 1, and 4.

16

This system contains measures 16, 17, 18, and 19. The top staff continues the melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The middle staff features a piano part with a forte (*f*) dynamic, including a long note in measure 17 and a sustained chord in measure 18. The bottom staff shows a bass line with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

20

D.C. al Fine

*p* *cresc.* *f*

*p* *cresc.* *f*

*p* *cresc.* *f*

This system contains measures 20, 21, 22, and 23. The top staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic. The middle and bottom staves also follow this dynamic progression. The system concludes with a double bar line and the instruction "D.C. al Fine".

# 3. Askham

Andrew Forrest

Warmly, ♩ = 132

The musical score is arranged for three guitars (Guitar 1, 2, and 3) in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The tempo is marked 'Warmly, ♩ = 132'. The score is divided into four systems of five measures each.

- Measures 1-5:** All guitars start with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Guitar 1 and 2 play a melodic line starting with a whole note chord, followed by eighth notes. Guitar 3 plays a bass line of quarter notes. A repeat sign with first and second endings is shown above measure 3.
- Measures 6-10:** Dynamics increase to mezzo-forte (*mf*). The melodic lines in Guitars 1 and 2 become more active with eighth notes and triplets. The bass line in Guitar 3 continues with quarter notes.
- Measures 11-15:** Dynamics increase to forte (*f*) for Guitars 1 and 2, and mezzo-piano (*mp*) for Guitar 3. The melodic lines feature accents and a final double bar line with repeat dots.

19

*p*

*p*

*p*

22

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

*p*

26

*mf*

*p*

29

D.S.  $\text{rit.}$  rall. molto

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

# 4. Fiddlers Playing

(Ukraine Dance Song)

Allegro assai, ♩ = 144

Guitar 1  
*ff* *f*

Guitar 2  
*ff* *f*

Guitar 3  
*ff* *f*

*p i p i*

8

*mp* *mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp* *mf*

*mf*

16

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp* *mf*

25 *rall.* *Pesante, ♩ = 80*

*p* *f*

*p* *f*

*mf* *f*

34 *D.C.* *molto accel.* *tornando al Tempo primo*

*D.C.* *molto accel.* *tornando al Tempo primo*

43 *più mosso, ♩ = 160* *Tempo primo*

*ff* *sfz*

*ff* *sfz*

*ff* *sfz*

# 5. Dashing Away With A Smoothing Iron

English Folk Song

Vivace, ♩ = 100

The musical score is arranged for three guitars (Guitar 1, 2, and 3) in 6/8 time. The tempo is marked 'Vivace' with a quarter note equal to 100 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

**Measures 1-5:** Guitar 1 plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Guitar 2 and 3 have rests in the first measure, then enter in the second measure with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

**Measures 6-12:** The music continues with various rhythmic patterns. Measure 6 is marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The guitars play in a more complex, interlocking fashion.

**Measures 13-19:** This section features a change in texture, with some guitars playing sustained notes or chords while others play rhythmic accompaniment.

**Chorus (Measures 20-26):** The chorus begins at measure 20 and is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. It features a strong, rhythmic melody in all three guitars.

27

pp

pp

pp

This system contains measures 27 through 33. It features three staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef and contains a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The middle and bottom staves provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The dynamic marking *pp* (pianissimo) is present in measures 29, 30, and 31.

34

f

f

f

This system contains measures 34 through 40. It features three staves. The top staff continues the melodic line. The middle and bottom staves provide harmonic support. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present in measures 35, 36, and 37.

41

This system contains measures 41 through 47. It features three staves. The top staff continues the melodic line. The middle and bottom staves provide harmonic support. There are no dynamic markings in this system.

48

ff

ff

ff

This system contains measures 48 through 54. It features three staves. The top staff continues the melodic line. The middle and bottom staves provide harmonic support. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measures 49, 50, and 51. The system concludes with a double bar line.

# 6. The Skye Boat Song

*Scottish Traditional*

Andante, ♩ = c.60

Guitar 1

Guitar 2

Guitar 3

5

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

9

to Coda ☐

12

*f*

*f*

*f*

16

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

D.S.  $\times$  al CODA

$\diamond$  CODA

arm. 7

19

*f*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*