

# The Three Billy Goats Gruff

for  
**narrator & string quintet**

music by  
**James Scott Balentine**

text adapted by  
**Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio**

commissioned by the  
Cactus Pear Festival  
KinderKonzerts Series

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*The Three Billy Goats Gruff* was commissioned by the Cactus Pear Festival for the Kinder Konzerts Series in San Antonio. It is a mini-drama, a narrative for string quartet, solo bass and narrator. It was first performed at the Empire Theater in San Antonio, Texas, in September of 2003, with baritone Timothy Jones narrating. The ugly, greedy old Troll is portrayed by the solo bass (first performed by bassist Steve Zeserman), who offers a musical dialogue with the clever Billy Goats (played by the Cactus Pear string quartet - Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio, artistic director) as the narrator tells the story.

**James Scott Balentine**, Professor of Music at the University of Texas at San Antonio, is a composer, arranger, performer and conductor, teaches music theory and composition, jazz studies, and serves as Associate Chair of the Department of Music. His music has been performed at numerous international conferences and festivals, including ClarinetFest, the International Double Reed Convention, the International Flute Society Convention, the Utah Arts Festival, American Landmark Festivals, and received commissions and awards from the Barlow Endowment, the Artist Foundation of San Antonio, the College Band Directors National Association, and many others.

commissioned by Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio  
Cactus Pear Music Festival

# The Three Billy Goats Gruff

A Norwegian tale retold in music & words

music by James Scott Balentine  
text by Stephanie Sant'Ambrogio

Happily, with energy (♩ = 116)

2/4

Narrator

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

7

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mf*

*pizz.*

*fz*

*mp*

*arco*

*mf*

*pizz.*

*fz*

*mp*

*arco*

*pizz.*

*mf*

*pizz.*

*mp*

*arco*

*pizz.*

*mf*

*arco*

*pizz.*

*mf*

14

Vln. I

*p*

Vln. II

*p*

*mp*

Vla.

*p*

*arco*

*mp*

Vc.

*p*

*arco*

*mp*

*pizz.*

Bass

21

Vln. I

*arco*

*mp*

*mf*

Vln. II

*mf*

*pizz.*

Vla.

*mf*

*pizz.*

Vc.

*mf*

*pizz.*

Bass

*mf*

Narr. Once upon a time there were three Billy Goats named Gruff

Vln. I 27

Vln. II

Vla. *arco*

Vc. *arco*

Bass *arco*

*pp*

Narr. who lived in a grassy meadow by a cool river.

Vln. I 34 *poco ritard...*

Vln. II

Vla. *poco ritard...*

Vc. *p* *mp* *pp* (sul D)

Bass *p* *mp* *pp* (sul D)

*p* *mp* *pp*

A

41

Narr.

One morning the smallest of the three billy goats

A

Gently, freely (♩ = 96)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

poco stringendo

*mp*

48

Narr.

noticed that the grass on the other side  
of the river looked much greener and  
sweeter than the grass in their meadow, ......so he decided to cross the bridge to  
continue his breakfast.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*p**p*

*poco ritenuto*

<b>B</b>	<i>A tempo</i>
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[illegible][illegible]

74

C

Narr. But there was only one bridge  
that crossed the stream and it was  
guarded by a mean, ugly old troll. No one was allowed to  
cross the bridge without  
the troll's permission, ...

Slow & lumbering (♩ = 84)

Vln. I

Vln. II *arco* *sul A* *sul pont.* *mf*

Vla. *arco* *mf*

Vc.

Bass *p* *f*

80

Narr. and nobody ever got his  
permission because the troll  
would gobble them up instead!

80

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass *poco ritard...*



D

86

Narr.

But the smallest Billy Goat Gruff  
was a clever fellow...

D

*A tempo*

86

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mp*

*p*

*arco*

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

92

Narr.

and he thought that  
he could outsmart the old troll, ...

so he timidly started across the bridge.

*pizz.*

*poco accelerando...*

92

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*p*

*p*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pizz.*

*p*

**E**

99

Narr. Trippety-trop, trippety-trop, went his little hooves over the wooden planks.

**E**

99

Vln. I *pp* *arco* *mp* *pp*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *arco* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *arco* *pizz.* *p* *pp*

Bass

105

Narr. "Who's that crossing over my bridge?", roared the troll. "It is only I, the tiniest Billy Goat Gruff," said the billy goat in his high and squeaky voice.

105

Vln. I *f* *mf*

Vln. II *mf* (Vln II)

Vla. *mf* (Vln II)

Vc. *mf*

Bass *f* *mf*

Slightly slower

Narr. 2/4

"I'm going to graze in the far meadow and make myself fat," he explained.

Vln. I 2/4

Vln. II 2/4

Vla. 2/4

Vc. 2/4

Bass 2/4

*p* *mp* *p*

F

117

Narr. 2/4

F ←  $\bullet = \bullet \rightarrow$  Pesante, fat & sluggish

"No, you're not!" cried the troll.  
"You look like a tasty morsel for me to eat. I'm going to gobble you up!"

Vln. I 2/4

Vln. II 2/4

Vla. 2/4

Vc. 2/4

Bass 2/4

*arco* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Narr.

Suddenly light & faster

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mf*

*p*

*pizz.*

*mp*

*pizz.*

*mp*

*pizz.*

*mp*

Narr.

“Oh please don’t eat me,” whined the little goat.  
“I’m so scrawny and small. I wouldn’t make  
much of a mouthful for such a big troll.”  
Slower, angry

The troll roared  
back, “Better one  
mouthful than none!”

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*tr*

*arco*

*f*

*arco*

*f*

*arco*

*f*

Narr. "Perhaps, but my bigger brother will be coming along shortly and he would really fill up your tummy."

A tempo (♩ = 86)

Vln. I 138

Vln. II *p* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mp* *mf*

Bass

Narr. Let me go, or he'll see you eat me and then he won't cross your bridge," suggested the little goat. Sure enough, the troll saw the bigger brother approaching,

Vln. I 144

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vla.

Vc.

Bass *mf*

G

151

Narr.

...smacked his ugly lips, and grumbled,  
"All right, just this once. Be gone."

So the tiny billy goat trotted  
across the bridge as fast as  
his little legs could take him.

G

151

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mp*

*mp*

156

Narr.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

156

6

6

*mf*

*pp*

*ppp*

*pp*

*ppp*

*p*

160 **H**

Narr. Along came the middle-sized Billy Goat Gruff.

Vln. I **H** 160 *mf*

Vln. II *mf* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Bass *mf* *pizz.*

167

Narr. Clippety-clop, Clippety-clop  
across the bridge went his hooves  
over the wooden planks.

Vln. I 167

Vln. II *pizz.* *mp* *arco*

Vla. *pizz.* *mp* *arco*

Vc. *pizz.* *mp* *arco*

Bass

**I**  
172

Narr.  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

**I** L'istesso tempo (♩ = ♩)

Vln. I  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. II  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *mf*

Vla.  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Vc.  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *mf*

Bass *arco*  $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$  *f* *mp*

“Who’s that crossing over my bridge?”, roared the troll.

176

Narr.  $\frac{3}{4}$

**I** Slightly faster

Vln. I  $\frac{3}{4}$  *p*

Vln. II  $\frac{3}{4}$  *p*

Vla.  $\frac{3}{4}$  *mf*

Vc.  $\frac{3}{4}$  *p* *pp*

Bass  $\frac{3}{4}$  *f* *mf* *mp*

“It is I, the middle Billy Goat Gruff,” said the billy goat in his medium and mellow voice. “I’m going to graze in the far meadow and make myself fat,” he explained.



182

J

Narr.

“No you’re not!” cried the troll.  
“You look like a fine goat lunch to me. I’m going to gobble you up!”

*poco meno mosso*

*mf*

*f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

189

Narr.

"Oh please don't eat me," protested the medium sized goat.

*Suddenly light & faster*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*pizz.*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

Narr. "I'd only make a light, low-calorie snack for such a big troll as you."

Vln. I 195

Vln. II *mp* *pizz.*

Vla. *pizz.*

Vc. *mp* *pizz.*

Bass *arco* *f*

Narr. The troll roared back, "Better a snack than no food at all!" "But my biggest brother will be coming along shortly and he would make a sumptuous feast to satisfy your hunger."

Vln. I 201

Vln. II *arco* *mp*

Vla. *arco* *mp* *Slightly slower* *mf*

Vc. *arco* *mp*

Bass

K

206

Narr.

K (♩ = 86)

206

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*p*

*pizz.*

*pp*

210

Narr.

210

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mp*

*mute on*

Let me go, for if he sees  
you eat me, he won't cross,  
and then you'll miss a meal  
of a lifetime," suggested the  
middle brother.

Narr. Once again the greedy troll saw the bigger Billy Goat approaching,...

... thought about what a filling lunch he would make, and grumbled, "All right, just this once. Be gone."

Vln. I 215

Vln. II (mute)

Vla. mute on *pp* (mute) Quiet, but forceful, *lontano* mute off

Vc. *pp*

Bass *arco* *mf* *mp*

Narr. So the medium-sized goat raced across the bridge as quickly as his sturdy legs could take him.

*poco accelerando...*

Vln. I 222

Vln. II mute off *p*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp* *p*

Bass

228

L

Narr.

228

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mf*

*f*

*pp*

*mf*

*f*

Heroically (♩ = 64)

~5'25"

234

Narr.

234

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

Along came the  
biggest and boldest  
Billy Goat Gruff!

*mf*

*f*

(l.v.)

Narr.

Clickety-clack, clickety-clack  
across the bridge went his large  
hooves over the wooden planks.

240

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

Narr.

"Who's that crossing  
over my bridge?"  
roared the troll. Slightly faster

244

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

M

M

*Molto stringendo*

*arco*

*ff*

*5*

Narr. *f*  
 “It is I, the biggest Billy Goat Gruff!”  
 And what’s it to you?”  
 thundered the large  
 Billy Goat in his big and  
 booming voice.

Vln. I 249

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. (l.v.)

Bass *ff*

Narr. *f*  
 “I’ve been waiting for you.  
 You’re going to be my big,  
 fat feast!” yelled the troll. *Faster, more intense*

Vln. I 256

Vln. II *mf*, *f*, *f*

Vla. *mf*, *f*, *f*

Vc. *mf*, *f*, *f*

Bass *f*

Narr.

"I'm not going to be anybody's lunch, especially not yours!" retorted the large billy goat. "I've got two sharp horns and two big hooves."

263

*mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II

*mf*

Vla.

*mf*

Vc.

Bass

Narr.

270

*mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mf*

24



Narr.

But the hairy, old troll was too greedy to listen  
to what the biggest billy goat had just said.

He smacked his lips and lumbered up towards  
the big goat yelling, "Here I come. I've been  
waitin' for you and I'm going to gobble you up!"

274

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

Narr.

279

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

Narr. The biggest billy goat just turned his back-side to that mean, ugly troll... ...and kicked with all of his might! Suddenly slower *poco accelerando...*

Vln. I 283 *mp* *f* *ff*

Vln. II *mp* *f* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *f* *ff*

Vc. *mf* *f* *ff*

Bass *ff*

Narr. He sent that old troll flying off the bridge and into the rushing river below.

Vln. I 287 *mp* *pp*

Vln. II *mp* *pp*

Vla. *mp* *pp*

Vc. *pizz.* *mf* *p*

Bass *mf* *p* (slow gliss)

Narr.

Then the big Billy Goat Gruff sauntered slowly  
across the bridge to join his brothers grazing on the  
sweet, green grass on the other side of the river.

Relaxed & playful (♩ = 86)

290

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *mp* *freely, relaxed arco* *mf*

Bass *pizz.* *pp* *pizz.* *p*

Narr.

The three Billy Goats Gruff happily munched away in their new meadow. They  
came and went across the bridge whenever they wanted for the rest of their days,  
growing bigger and fatter with every year.

297

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Bass *mp*

Narr.

And the mean, ugly troll?  
He was carried down that  
river and was thankfully  
never heard of again.

304

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*arco*

*p*

**P** Fast, light & lively (♩ = 124)

309

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

*f*

*f*

*fz* *mf*

*fz* *mf*

*pizz.* *mf*

*arco*

*arco*

*arco*

*pizz.* *mf*

314

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass

318

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Bass





*More music from James Scott Balentine and Guildhian Music:*

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