

PETER AND THE WOLF Clearwater Concert Band

(Optional Narration with Band)

№ 1147

OPTIONAL NARRATION

By **SERGEI PROKOFIEV**
Arranged by **JIM CURNOW (ASCAP)**

Narrator should watch conductor for cues for the proper time to begin narration. Also, the narrator should be presented with a spirit of freedom and expression.

Narration 1 - Once upon a time, there was a boy called Peter. He and his grandfather lived in a cottage with a garden surrounded by a high stone wall. Outside, there was a great meadow and beyond the meadow a deep, dark forest. Early one morning, Peter opened the gate and went out into the big green meadow.

Narration 2 - On the branch of a big tree sat a little bird, Peter's friend. "All is quiet," chirped the bird gaily.

Narration 3 - Soon a duck came waddling around. She was glad that Peter had not closed the gate, and decided to take a nice swim in the deep pond in the meadow.

Narration 4 - Seeing the duck, the little bird flew down upon the grass, settled next to the duck and shrugged his shoulders. "What kind of a bird are you, if you can't fly?" said the bird. To this the duck replied, "What kind of a bird are you, if you can't swim?" and dived into the pond.

They argued and argued, the duck swimming in the pond, the little bird hopping along the shore.

Narration 5 - Suddenly, something caught Peter's attention. He noticed a cat crawling through the grass. The cat thought, "The bird is busy arguing, I'll just grab him." Quietly she crept toward him on velvet paws.

Narration 6 - "Look out!" shouted Peter, and the bird flew immediately up into the tree while the duck quacked angrily at the cat from the middle of the pond.

Narration 7 - Grandfather came out. He was angry because Peter had gone into the meadow. "It is a dangerous place. If a wolf should come out of the forest, then what would you do?"

Narration 8 - Peter paid no attention to his grandfather's words. Boys like Peter are not afraid of wolves. But grandfather took Peter by the hand, led him home and locked the gate. No sooner had Peter and his grandfather gone, than a big grey wolf came out of the forest.

Narration 9 - In a twinkling the cat climbed up the tree, the duck quacked, and in her excitement jumped out of the pond. No matter how much the duck tried to run she couldn't escape the wolf. He kept getting nearer... and nearer... until he got her, and with one gulp swallowed her.

Narration 10 - And now, this is how things stood: the cat was sitting on one branch of the big tree, the bird on another... not too close to the cat.

Narration 11 - While the wolf walked round and round the tree looking at them with greedy eyes.

Narration 12 - In the meantime, Peter, without the slightest fear, stood behind the closed gate watching all that was going on.

Narration 13 - Peter ran home, got a strong rope and climbed up the stone wall. One of the branches of the tree around which the wolf was walking, stretched out over the wall. Grabbing hold of the branch, Peter climbed over on to the tree. Peter said to the bird: "Fly down and circle around the wolf's head, only take care he doesn't catch you." The bird almost touched the wolf's head with his wings. While the wolf snapped angrily at him from this side and that. How the bird did worry the wolf! How he wanted to catch him! But the bird was too clever and the wolf simply couldn't do anything about it. Meanwhile Peter made a lasso and carefully letting it down, caught the wolf by the tail and pulled with all his might.

Narration 14 - Feeling himself caught, the wolf began to jump wildly trying to get loose.

Narration 15 - But Peter had tied the other end of the rope to the tree, so the wolf's jumping only made the rope around his tail tighter.

Narration 16 - Just then hunters came out of the woods following the wolf's trail and shooting as they came.

Narration 17 - But Peter sitting in the tree shouted, "Don't shoot! The bird and I have caught the wolf. Now help us take him to the zoo."

And now... imagine the triumphant procession: Peter at the head, after him the hunters leading the wolf, and winding up the procession, grandfather and the cat. Above them flew the bird chirping merrily, "My, what brave fellows we are, Peter and I! Look what we have caught!"

Narration 18 - And if you would listen very carefully, you could hear the duck quacking inside the wolf. Because in his haste, the wolf had swallowed her alive.