

RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES

Grade: 1.5

Conductor Score: RWS-2511-01

Cha Cha Chopsticks

Heather Ellis Koehn

RWS

Beginning Band Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES

Cha Cha Chopsticks

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	F Horn	4
Flute	10	Trombone	6
Oboe	2	Euphonium B.C.	2
B $\flat$ Clarinet	12	Euphonium T.C.	2
B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	2	Tuba	4
Bassoon	2	Mallet Percussion: Xylophone (or Bells)	4
E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	8	Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	2	Percussion 2: Cabasa, Bongos	2
E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	2	Percussion 3: Maracas, Claves	2
B $\flat$ Trumpet	10		

PROGRAM NOTE

Cha Cha Chopsticks is a lively fusion of two musical worlds: infectious Latin rhythms and the well-known childhood tune *Chopsticks*. Composed to help students learn syncopation, accelerando, and basic Latin percussion, *Cha Cha Chopsticks* is a fun transformation of the tune that is often first learned with two fingers at the piano. Now, instead of a simple keyboard duet, students experience this melody in a new way, energized with Latin flair!

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Cha Cha Chopsticks includes a controlled, gradual accelerando leading into the final section at measure 48. Be sure to start at a manageable tempo to give students space to build momentum naturally. Percussionists should maintain a steady Latin groove, anchoring the ensemble's feel. Emphasize syncopation and accents across all sections to capture the lively, dance-inspired character of the piece. Winds and mallet players should bring out the familiar *Chopsticks* melody with clarity and charm. Most importantly—have fun! Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Described as a “brutally honest and gifted musical storyteller” (The American Prize), **Heather Ellis Koehn** is an Oklahoma-based composer, arranger, and educator who draws inspiration from nature, historical events, personal experience, and social causes. Since she began her composition career in college, Ms. Koehn's original works for band, choir, and chamber ensembles have been performed throughout the United States, and she has received commissions from high school bands, regional and state band directors' associations, and the Tulsa Starlight Band. In 2018, Ms. Koehn's piece, “Canyon's Edge”, was selected as a winner of the Dallas Winds Fanfare Competition. In 2021, she received a Special Judges' Citation for “Vital Perspective on Historical Events through Words and Music” from The American Prize for her wind band work, “36 Blocks”, written to memorialize all that was lost in the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. In the summer of 2022, as one of eight composers selected from around the world, Ms. Koehn participated in the internationally recognized residency, Composing in the Wilderness in Denali National Park and Preserve. In addition to composing original works, Ms. Koehn is a nationally recognized marching band wind arranger and design consultant. Her clients

have won state titles in Oklahoma and Texas, as well as a Bands of America Regional Championship. Whether writing educational etudes, sight reading audition material, designing marching band programming, or creating an original work, Ms. Koehn strives to create a meaningful experience for performer and listener alike. Ms. Koehn currently serves as associate director of bands at Bartlesville (OK) Public Schools with her husband and teaching partner, Chris. When not teaching, performing, or composing, she can be found exploring backcountry trails all over the USA.



CHA CHA CHOPSTICKS

Conductor Score
RWS-2511-00

Heather Ellis Koehn (ASCAP)

Moderately $\text{♩} = 100$

Flute *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Oboe *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

B♭ Clarinet *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

B♭ Bass Clarinet *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Bassoon *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

E♭ Alto Saxophone *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

E♭ Baritone Saxophone *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Moderately $\text{♩} = 100$

B♭ Trumpet *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

F Horn *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Trombone *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Euphonium B.C. *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Tuba *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Mallet Percussion
Xylophone (or Bells) *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Percussion 1
Snare Drum (S.D.)
Bass Drum (B.D.) *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Percussion 2
Cabasa
Bongos *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

Percussion 3
Maracas
Claves *f* *mf* *div.* *a2* **5**

1 2 3 4 5

CHA CHA CHOPSTICKS

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

6 7 8 9 10

CHA CHA CHOPSTICKS

[illegible]

CHA CHA CHOPSTICKS

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

16 17 18 19 20

22

Fl.

mp

Ob.

mp

Clar.

mp

B. Cl.

mp

Bsn.

mp

A. Sax

mp

T. Sax

mp

B. Sax

mp

22

Trpt.

div. a2 div.

mp

F Hn.

mp

Tbn.

mp

Euph. B.C.

mp

Tuba

mp

Mlt.

mp

Perc. 1

mp

Perc. 2

mp

Perc. 3

21 22 23 24 25

mp

accel.

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Clar. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

A. Sax *mf*

T. Sax *mf*

B. Sax *mf*

accel.

Trpt. *mf*

F Hn. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Euph. B.C. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf*

26 *mf* 27 *mf* 28 29 30 *fp*

31 Faster! ♩ = 128

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Clar. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

A. Sax *f*

T. Sax *f*

B. Sax *f*

31 Faster! ♩ = 128

Trpt. *f*

F Hn. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Euph. B.C. *f*

Tuba *f*

Mlt. *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *f*

31 32 33 34 35

39

CHA CHA CHOPSTICKS

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

accel. **48** Even Faster! ♩ = 138

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Clar. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

A. Sax *ff*

T. Sax *ff*

B. Sax *ff*

accel. **48** Even Faster! ♩ = 138

Trpt. *ff*

F Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Euph. B.C. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Mlt. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Perc. 3 *ff*

47 *fp* 48 *ff* 49 50 51

CHA CHA CHOPSTICKS

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

52 53 54 55 56 57

div.

a2

div.

a2

div.

a2