

The Centipede

(Sheila Nelson)

Background information

- Sheila Nelson is a British string teacher who was born in 1936.
- She has played with the English Chamber Orchestra, and has written tutors and compositions for student string players.

Title

- A centipede is a small, many-legged creature, similar to a caterpillar.



Time and rhythm

- The time signature means four crotchet beats in a bar.
- This time signature is also known as “common time”.
- The suggested tempo range is 66 to 72 crotchet beats per minute.

Keys

- The key of this piece is G major.
- The key signature is one sharp (F sharp).

Signs and terms

- *p* (*piano*) means soft.
- *pp* (*pianissimo*) means very soft.
- *mp* (*mezzo piano*) means moderately soft.
- *mf* (*mezzo forte*) means moderately loud.
-  (*crescendo*) means gradually becoming louder.
-  (*diminuendo*) means gradually becoming softer.
- The curved line in bar 4 is a *slur*. Slurred notes should be played smoothly and connected, in a single bow.
- *Staccato* (indicated by a dot above or below a note) means short and detached.
- The notes used in this piece are dotted minims (three beats), minims (two beats), crotchets (one beat) and quavers (half a beat).
- The rests in this piece are all crotchet rests.