

# Ben Morris

---

*commissioned by Erich Haller*

## If You Give a Moose a Muffin



for baritone voice, bass trombone,  
and upright bass

© February 2020

Ben Morris Music

[www.benjaminmorrismusic.com](http://www.benjaminmorrismusic.com)

[bmorriscomposer@gmail.com](mailto:bmorriscomposer@gmail.com)

(+1) 973-722-0460

# If You Give a Moose a Muffin

for baritone voice, bass trombone,  
and upright bass

**Total Duration:** ca. 6'00"

## Text

by Laura Joffe Numeroff

If you give a moose a muffin, he'll want some jam to go with it.  
So you'll bring out some of your mother's homemade blackberry jam.  
When he's finished eating the muffin, he'll want another. And another. And another.  
When they're all gone, he'll ask for more.

You'll have to go to the store to get some muffin mix. He'll want to go with you.  
When he opens the door and feels how chilly it is, he'll ask to borrow a sweater.  
When he puts the sweater on, he'll notice one of the buttons is loose.  
He'll ask for a needle and thread. He'll start sewing.  
The button will remind him of the puppets his grandmother used to make.

So he'll ask for some old socks. He'll make sock puppets.  
When they're done, he'll want to put on a puppet show.  
He'll need some cardboard and paints. Then he'll ask you to help make the scenery.  
When the scenery is finished, he'll get behind the couch. But his antlers will stick out.  
So he'll ask for something to cover them up. You'll bring him a sheet from your bed.

When he sees the sheet, he'll remember he wants to be a ghost for Halloween.  
He'll try it on and shout, "BOO!" It'll scare him so much, he'll knock over the paints.  
So he'll use the sheet to clean up the mess. Then he'll ask for some soap to wash it out.  
He'll probably want to hang the sheet up to dry.  
He'll go outside and put it on the clothesline.

When he's out in the yard, he'll see your mother's blackberry bushes.  
Seeing the blackberries will remind him of her jam. He'll probably ask you for some.  
And chances are... if you give him the jam, he'll want a muffin to go with it.

for Erich Haller

C Score

# If You Give a Moose a Muffin

Laura Joffe Numeroff

for baritone voice, bass trombone,  
and upright bass

Ben Morris

Lazy, plodding ♩ = 72  
mic'ing optional

rit. . . . .

Baritone

Bass Trombone

Contrabass

harmon mute (with stem)

rapidly shake hand for "wah" effect

sim.

gliss.

*pp* < *mp*      *pp* < *mp*      *pp* < *mp*      *pp* <

amplification optional  
pizz. (jazz-style)

*p*

Bar.

B. Tbn.

Cb.

**A** a tempo ♩ = 72

*mf*

5

("shake wah") ord. → fl.t.

doit

quick "wah"

*fp* ————— *f*      *p*

hammer-on, pull-off (re-articulate G)

freely slide up

If you give a moose a muf-fin he'll want some jam to go

*fp* ————— *f*      *p*

Bar.

B. Tbn.

Cb.

9

with it.

"shake wah" + + + + + + + + + +

fl.t.

"wah" sim.

gliss.

gliss.

*p* ————— *mf* ————— *p*

sul tasto, tilt bow down slightly

arco

l.h. pizz

*f* like a moose call

So you'll bring out some of your

2

12

Bar. *mf* *pizz.* *p < f > p < f > p* *mf*

B. Tbn. *mf* *pizz.* *p < f > p < f > p* *mf*

Cb. *mf* *pizz.* *p < f > p < f > p*

mo ther's home-made black-ber-ry jam W - hen he's "wah"

16

Bar. *p* *p < f > p* *f*

B. Tbn. *p* *p < f > p*

Cb. *f* freely slide up

fin-ished ea-ting the muf-fin he'll want a - nother doit and a - no - ther "wahp"

19

rit. *n* *p*

Bar. *p*

B. Tbn. *p*

Cb. *f* *p*

and a - no - ther when they're all gone, he'll ask for

harmonic gliss. "sigh" *molto s.p.* arco (ric.), quasi col legno, with fall arco (ord.)

23

a tempo *B* *mf* *poco accel.* *poco più mooso*

72 80

Bar. *ppp* *p* *pp < mf* *p*

B. Tbn. *ppp* *p* *pp < mf* *p*

Cb. *ppp* *p* *pp < mf* *p*

more you'll have to go to the store to get some muf-fin mix quick "wah"

If You Give a Moose a Muffin | Ben Morris

27 *p* (an aside) *mf* "wah" *mf* 3

Bar. he'll want to go with you W - hen he o-pens the door and feels how chil-ly it is lip trill

B. Tbn. fl.t. *fp* arco (s.p.)

Cb. 0 *fp*

30 *poco accel.* **C** *poco più mooso* ♩ = 84

Bar. he'll ask to bor-row a sweat-er when he puts the swe-ater on quick "wah"

B. Tbn. *sfz sempre* *f*

Cb. *sfz sempre* *ff*

34 *rit.*

Bar. he'll no-tice one of the but-tons is loose

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *pizz. mf tumbling* *pp*

Cb. *mf tumbling* 3 5 6

36 **D** ♩ = 66 *p*

Bar. he'll ask for a nec-dle and thread lip trill

B. Tbn. *p*

Cb. arco (s.p.) *p* *pp*

4 *poco accel.*

Bar. *3*  
he'll start sew - ing stop tongue

B. Tbn. harmon mute out. to plunger mute

Cb. arco (ord.) *mf*  
pizz.

43 **E** *poco rit.* *suddenly broad, wistful, nostalgic* *f*

Bar. *3*  
The but-ton will re-mind him of the pu- ppets his grand-mo- ther

B. Tbn. "wah" with plunger

Cb. *f* *mf* *fp*

45 *poco accel.* *pausing to remember...* *f*

Bar. used to make plunger mute so he'll ask for some old so - cks he'll make sock pu ppets

B. Tbn. "wah" with plunger

Cb. *p* *mf* *f*

48 *molto rit.* *freely, broadly* **F** *f*

Bar. *3* *3*  
he'll put on a pu-ppet show open

B. Tbn. *ff* *suddenly bold, comical*

Cb. *sfz* *p*

**G** More urgently ♩ = 96

50 *accel.*

Bar. he'll need some

B. Tbn. *spicc. circus-like*

Cb. *mf*

*pp* *f* *sub. p*

53

Bar. card-board and paints then he'll ask you to help make some scen-er - y

B. Tbn. *con vib.*

Cb. *rit.*

*pp* *mf bold*

**Broad** ♩ = 66

**H**

*f* lyrical, operatic

56

Bar. When the scen - er - y is fin - ished he'll get be - hind the flap tongue sing and play

B. Tbn. *harmonic gliss (sul E)*

Cb. *gliss.*

*mf*

**I** *sub.* ♩ = 80

59

Bar. couch

B. Tbn. *indeterminate pitch*

Cb. *pizz.*

*ff* suddenly bold, comical

tilt bow down slightly for "moose" sound

*f*

6 62

Bar. *Bue his an- tlers\_ will stick out! so he'll ask for some thing to co-ver them up*

B. Tbn. *fpp*

Cb. *fpp*

64

Bar. *You'll bring him a sheet from your bed*

B. Tbn. *pitchless "shh" breath fl.t. "shh"*

Cb. *f pizz. arco* *pitchless "air noise" - mute string, low bow pressure.*

*pp*

**J** *airy, early music tone*

67

Bar. *When he sees the sheet, he'll re - me - mber, he wants to be a ghost for Hal - lo - ween*

B. Tbn. *gradually reintroduce pitch*

Cb. *gradually reintroduce pitch*

*ord.*

69

Bar. *he'll try it on and shout It will scare him so much, he'll knock ov-er the paints*

B. Tbn. *ff* *ffff* *pizz. "BOO!"*

Cb. *ff* *ffff*

*theatrical shout* *ff pinched*

*doit "BOO!"*



16"

**K** Sudden, crazy burst of activity  
improvise, imitate instruments. reactions/ noises "ow!" etc. *n*

**L** Quickly Moving ♩ = 84  
*f*

Bar. *sneak in* pointillistic, crazy improv (as fast as possible) *n* dissolving, getting sparser "shh" breath fl.t. → breath "sigh" *n* So he'll use the sheet to clean up the mess *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff* *n* *ff*

Cb. (pizz.) *fff* etc. *p* getting sparser, dissolving *sub ff*

*tired, taking a break*  
exhale inhale

Bar. 76 *5* Then he'll ask for some soap to wash it out he'll pro-'bly want to hang the sheet up to dry

B. Tbn.

Cb. *ricc. quasi col legno* *fff*

Bar. 78 He'll go out-side to put it on the clothes-line W - hen he's out in the yard

B. Tbn. *doit*

Cb. *pizz.* *arco*

"wah" *3* *3*

8

80 *rit.* *ff* *p* **M** ♩ = 66 *sweetly*

Bar. he'll see \_\_\_\_\_ he'll see your mo - ther's\_ black-ber - ry

B. Tbn. *fff* *mf* *ppp*

Cb. *fff* *ppp*

to harmon mute

83

Bar. bush - es\_ with harmon mute (stem in) See - ing the black ber - ries\_ will re - mind him of her

B. Tbn. *p* *pp*

Cb. *p* *pp*

arco *gliss.*

86 *f* *mf* *p* *f*

Bar. jam he'll prob - a - bly ask you for some and chan - ces are\_

B. Tbn. quick "wah" *p* *f*

Cb. *f* *pizz.* *f* *freely slide up*

(audible break optional) *n* *p* *f*

90 **N** a tempo *p.* ♩ = 72

Bar. shake "wah" if you give him the jam\_ (m) shake "wah"

B. Tbn. *pp*

Cb. *pp* *p*

harmonic gliss. arco *pizz.*

95

rit. . . . . a tempo ♩ = 72 poco rit. . . . . 9

Bar.

B. Tbn.

Cb.

he'll want a muf-fin to go

99 **O** a tempo ♩ = 72

Bar.

B. Tbn.

Cb.

with it "shake wah" fl.t. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* flap tongue *n*

sul tasto, tilt bow down slightly arco l.h. pizz pizz.

*f* like a moose call *ff*