

Strip the Willow

Ralph Hultgren

Commissioned for the *Composition and Competition: New Music for Schools* project: a partnership between Young Conservatorium Griffith University and Education Queensland.

Strip the Willow

In bush dancing, an Australian barn dance, the *Strip the Willow* is a lively reel style dance that finds participants stretching to make the moves and leaping across flailing bodies as others fail in their quest for control and decorum!

Basing their work on old Scottish and Irish tunes, bush bands provide the musical accompaniment to these exuberant activities and the Strip the Willow is often danced to the tune The Soldiers' Joy, which is the melody used in the animated Aussie romp!

This work was written for the Bundaberg State High School String Orchestra and their conductor Christine Buwalda as part of the New Music for Schools program presented by the Young Conservatorium, Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, in association with Education Queensland.

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