

STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Today

Robert Gardner

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5



Program Notes

Today is an intense, up-tempo piece in a power-rock style, similar to the Ramones, Green Day, or the Foo Fighters. The spirit of the piece is the enthusiastic embracing of living in the moment. This piece utilizes an aggressive style that is fun to perform, and a tonality that is familiar to the students. The piece is technically accessible but also challenging because of its energetic tempo, independent voicing, and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. There is an underlying repeated rhythmic accompaniment that runs throughout and is the driving engine behind the groove in a rock style. The melody moves around the ensemble, and is sometimes understated and mysterious, and other times stridently soars above the raucous rhythm section. The energy of the performance grows throughout the piece, and builds to a wall of sound with the orchestra playing expanded chords with double stops. This piece celebrates the confident enthusiasm and 'joie de vivre' that we experience when we gain independence, strive to seize the day, and live our lives to the fullest.

Notes to the Conductor

Today is technically accessible, using mostly first position (some third position in the first violin) and few accidentals. At the same time, this piece will challenge your group with its energetic tempo, independent voicing, and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. The entire piece should be performed with a heavy punk rock or power pop style in mind. Students should be taught to use a lot of bow weight into the string and sharp articulation, and to play as if they had a drum set accompaniment behind them. Perform the piece as close to the indicated tempo as possible, and keep a steady tempo, because allowing it to drag can create a flat and uninteresting performance. Play all syncopated rhythms with strong and clear staccato articulation. Be sure to bring out the accents in the running eighth note accompaniment patterns, which run almost throughout the piece and should always groove. Parts marked with louder dynamics are generally the melody line in that section. Balancing the melody with the accompaniment patterns so all can be heard will facilitate a tighter and more exciting performance. Adding a drumset player to the piece would enhance the performance. The drummer can play a basic two-beat punk rock pattern (e.g., "Ballroom Blitz" by Sweet), with the bass drum using the syncopated rhythms in the eighth note accompaniment patterns, and the accents in the melodies to guide improvised fills.

Today

3

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 4:00

Robert Gardner

Molto agitato (♩ = 96)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

f *sim.* *f* *sim.* *f* *sim.*

**all parts, sempre non-divisi, unless marked*

1

2

3

4

5

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div. *f* *ff* *non-div.* *f* *sim.* *ff* *f* *ff* *f*

6

7

8

9

10

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

sim.

11 12 13 14 15

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

chop

mp

mf

sim.

16 17 18 19 20

25

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

21 22 23 24 25

f

chop

mp

Preview Requires Purchase

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

26 27 28 29 30

sim.

sim.

Preview Requires Purchase

33

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31 32 33 34

33

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

35 36 37 38 39

36

41

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

40 41 42 43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

44 45 46 47 48

div.

49

Vlns. I *mf* *sim.*

Vlns. II *mf* *sim.*

Vla. *mf* *sim.*

Cello *mf* *sim.*

Str. Bass *mf* *sim.*

49 50 51 52 53

57

Vlns. I *mp* *div.* *sim.*

Vlns. II *mp* *sim.*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

54 55 56 57 58

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

59 60 61 62 63

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

64 65 66 67 68

f

mf

sim.

73

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

69 70 71 72 73

div.

f

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

74 75 76 77 78

81

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

79 80 81 82 83

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

84 85 86 87 88

89

Vlns. I *fff*

Vlns. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff* *marcato* *sim.*

Str. Bass *ff*

89 90 91 92

**quick slides into notes, like guitar bends*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

93 94 95 96

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

97 98 99 100

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

101 102 103 104

105 (■)

Vlns. I *f* decresc. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vlns. II *f* decresc. *mf* *sim.*

Vla. *f* decresc. *mf* *sim.*

Cello *f* decresc. *mf* *sim.*

Str. Bass *f* decresc. *mf* *sim.*

105 106 107 108

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. *mp* *p*

Cello *mp* *p*

Str. Bass *mp* *p*

109 110 111 112

113

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *pizz. div. p*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *pizz.*

Str. Bass *pizz.*

113 114 115 116 117

121

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

118 119 120 121 122

The musical score for measures 123-127 is as follows:

- Violins I (Vlns. I):** Measure 123: Whole note G4. Measure 124: Whole rest. Measure 125: Quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. Measure 126: Quarter notes G4, F#4, E4. Measure 127: Whole note G4. Dynamics: *cresc.* (125), *f* (127).
- Violins II (Vlns. II):** Measure 123: Quarter notes G4, A4. Measure 124: Quarter notes G4, A4. Measure 125: Quarter notes G4, A4. Measure 126: Quarter notes G4, A4. Measure 127: Quarter notes G4, A4. Dynamics: *cresc.* (125), *mf* (127).
- Viola (Vla.):** Measure 123: Quarter notes G3, A3. Measure 124: Quarter notes G3, A3. Measure 125: Half note G3. Measure 126: Half note G3. Measure 127: Quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4. Dynamics: *cresc.* (125), *mf* (127), *arco* (127).
- Cello:** Measure 123: Quarter notes G2, A2. Measure 124: Quarter notes G2, A2. Measure 125: Quarter notes G2, A2, B2. Measure 126: Quarter notes G2, A2. Measure 127: Quarter notes G2, A2. Dynamics: *cresc.* (125), *mf* (127).
- String Bass (Str. Bass):** Measure 123: Quarter notes G2, A2. Measure 124: Quarter notes G2, A2. Measure 125: Quarter notes G2, A2, B2. Measure 126: Quarter notes G2, A2. Measure 127: Quarter notes G2, A2. Dynamics: *cresc.* (125), *mf* (127).

This musical score is for measures 128 through 132 of the 'The Swan' section from Swan Lake. The score is written for five parts: Violins I (Vlns. I), Violins II (Vlns. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 128, which is marked with a forte (f) dynamic. In measure 129, there is a change in dynamics and articulation, with a forte (f) dynamic and a 'V' marking above the notes. The Viola part has a 'V' marking above the notes in measure 129. The Cello part has a 'V' marking above the notes in measure 129. The String Bass part has a 'V' marking above the notes in measure 129. In measure 130, the Cello part has a 'V' marking above the notes. In measure 131, the Cello part has a 'V' marking above the notes. In measure 132, the Cello part has a 'V' marking above the notes. The score ends at measure 132.

137

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

133 134 135 136 137

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

138 139 140 141 142

18

Vlns. I (V)

Vlns. II V

Vla. (V)

Cello

Str. Bass

ff

ff

ff

143 144 145 146 147

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

148 149 150 151

153

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

152 153 154 155

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

156 157 158 159 160

161

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pesante

chop

sim.

161 162 163 164 165

169

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

166 167 168 169

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

170 171 172 173

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

174 175 176 177

fff

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

178 179 180 181

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

182 183 184 185

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

186 187 188 189

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

molto rit.

div.

190 191 192 193