

AVALANCHE

By Michael Hopkins

INSTRUMENTATION

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

AVALANCHE

Avalanche is an expressive and energetic original composition for beginning orchestra that is also a wonderful teaching piece for bow distribution, lifts, retakes, and string crossings. The “avalanche” motives feature descending octave leaps and descending scale patterns that make string crossings accessible to beginners, and the violins and violas make frequent use of the 4th finger. This piece is a great introduction to B \flat , C and F naturals to modulate from D major to D minor. All parts are playable in first position (some half position for bass), and there are no cello extensions or high 3rd fingers for violin or viola.

Avalanche

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 2:45

Michael Hopkins

Allegro (♩ = 132)

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

This block contains the first four measures of the conductor score. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Allegro' with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'f' (forte). The Violins I part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Violins II part has a similar melodic line. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts have a steady accompaniment pattern.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

This block contains measures 5 through 8 of the conductor score. The music continues in the same 4/4 time and key signature. The dynamic remains 'f'. The Violins I part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Violins II part has a similar melodic line. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts have a steady accompaniment pattern.

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Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

17 4 18 19 20

Vlns. I *p* *f*

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass *p* *f*

21 22 4 23 24 25 4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II *f*

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

26 27 4 28 29

1/2 pos. ---
1

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 26 through 29. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 26 shows the first violin with a slur over measures 26-27 and a '4' above measure 28. The second violin and viola play eighth-note patterns. The cello and string bass play quarter-note patterns. Measure 29 includes a '1/2 pos.' marking above the string bass staff and a '1' below it.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

30 31 32 33

o 4

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 30 through 33. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps. Measure 30 has a slur over measures 30-31 and a 'V' above measure 31. Measure 32 has a '4' above the second violin staff and a 'f' dynamic marking below the cello staff. Measure 33 has a 'f' dynamic marking below the cello staff. The string bass staff has a 'o' above measure 30 and a '4' above measure 31.

34 35 36 37

Vlns. I *ff*

Vlns. II *f* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff* 1/2 pos. 2 4 4

38 39 40 41

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f* I pos. 1 1 4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 42-45. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 42 has a '4' above the first violin staff. Measures 43, 44, and 45 have '4' above the second violin staff. The first violin part features eighth-note patterns with accents (>) and slurs. The second violin part has a similar eighth-note pattern with a '4' above it in measure 43. The viola and cello parts have quarter notes with accents and slurs. The string bass part has quarter notes.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 46-49. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). Measure 46 has a '4' above the first violin staff. Measure 47 has a 'p' dynamic marking. Measure 48 has a '4' above the second violin staff and a 'p' dynamic marking. Measure 49 is boxed and has a 'p' dynamic marking. The first violin part has eighth-note patterns with accents and slurs. The second violin part has a similar eighth-note pattern with a '4' above it in measure 48. The viola and cello parts have quarter notes with accents and slurs. The string bass part has quarter notes.

50 51 52 53

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

54 55 56 57

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

I 58 59 60 61

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

I 62 63 64 65

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

67

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

x2 x4

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

70

71

72

73

4

4

74 75 76 77

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mf

mf

mf

1/2 pos.
1

mf

78 79 80 81

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mf

mf

mf

I pos.
2

82 83 84 85

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f* *non divisi*

Vla. *f* 4 *non divisi*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

86 87 88 89

Vlns. I *ff*

Vlns. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff*