

**STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES**

# Rockin' It!

By Julie Lyonn Lieberman

## INSTRUMENTATION

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

## Program Notes

The violin and voice were party to the inception of the blues during the days of slavery. Slave fiddlers were trained by plantation owners and rented out to play at state balls, community events, and parties in the big house. After emancipation, there were hundreds of blues fiddlers. Some migrated to cities where they played for the silent films. The blues evolved into four other styles: rhythm and blues (R&B), bluegrass, rock, and jazz.

It is important for bowed string players to know about the American history of their instrument, and to participate in playing American styles rather than solely Western European music. A majority of young students listen to 'pop' music every day. This piece was designed to help conductors close the gap between what happens when a student shuts off their stereo and picks up their instrument. Studies have found that inclusion of rock repertoire has boosted students' interest in practice time and participation in orchestra.

## Notes to the Conductor

You can approach this score in two distinctly different ways, depending on your students' comfort level: with traditional seating, played as written, or with students standing and moving as they play (movements can include an imitation of a rock guitarist or swaying with the beat). If you use an all-electric ensemble, you will need monitor speakers behind each player in addition to the house system through which the total sound will be mixed by your school's sound engineer. It's best to consult with the sound engineer before you purchase equipment.

If your school only has a few electric instruments, students can take turns playing on them for the solo section, and selected students (with strong technique) can use them for the whole piece. Even though the part provides written-out solos, your students will learn the most by practicing the E pentatonic scale (E-G-A-B-D) and using it to create their own solos. Invite your students to improvise with a partner in groups of two if they feel shy about improvising in public.

You can use special effects by plugging into Zoom or Digitech special effects boxes. Ask students to select their favorite special effect, then apply that effect after the soloing section through the end. This will help build the momentum of the piece.

# Rockin' It!

CONDUCTOR SCORE  
Duration - 2:20

Julie Lyonn Lieberman

Fast rock (♩ = 132)

Violins I  
Violins II  
Viola  
Cello  
String Bass

*mf*

*pizz.*

1 2 3

Detailed description: This block contains the first three measures of the conductor score. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Fast rock' with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The Violin parts have accents and slurs. The Viola part has accents. The Cello and String Bass parts have accents and a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking. Measure numbers 1, 2, and 3 are indicated at the bottom.

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

4 5 6

Detailed description: This block contains measures 4, 5, and 6 of the conductor score. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature and time signature remain the same. The dynamic is 'mf'. The Violin parts have accents and slurs. The Viola part has accents. The Cello and String Bass parts have accents. Measure numbers 4, 5, and 6 are indicated at the bottom.

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

7 8 9

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7, 8, and 9. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 7 shows a complex rhythmic pattern with accents and slurs. Measure 8 continues with similar patterns. Measure 9 features a more active bass line with accents and slurs.

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

10 11 12

Detailed description: This system contains measures 10, 11, and 12. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 10 has a more active bass line. Measure 11 shows a change in the violin parts. Measure 12 features a more active bass line with accents and slurs.

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

13 14 15

*ff* *mp* *ff*  
*ff* *mp* *ff*  
*ff* *mp* *ff*  
*ff* *mp* *ff*  
arco *mp* *ff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13, 14, and 15. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measures 13-15 feature prominent triplets in all parts. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The String Bass part in measure 14 is marked 'arco'. Measure 15 features a more active bass line with accents and slurs.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

16 17 18

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 16, 17, and 18. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Measures 16 and 17 contain complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and slurs. Measure 18 shows a change in texture with more sustained notes and accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

19 20 21

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 19, 20, and 21. The instrumentation remains the same. Measure 19 features a tremolo effect on the Cello part. Measures 20 and 21 continue the rhythmic and melodic development. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

22 23 24

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score, covering measures 22, 23, and 24. The instrumentation remains the same. Measures 22 and 23 feature tremolo effects on the Violin I, Violin II, and Viola parts. Measure 24 shows a continuation of the rhythmic patterns with accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

25

Vln. I Solo

Vln. II Solo

Vla. Solo

Cello Solo

Str. Bass Solo

25

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Accompaniment

*p*

*f*

*pizz.*

*f*

\*Instructions for mm. 25-36: Repeat as many times as there are section solos or soloists. Violin and viola sections should take turns playing their background line while the bass line is played by bass and/or cello sections. Individuals may improvise using the E pentatonic scale for soloing: E, G, A, B, D.

Vln. I Solo

Vln. II Solo

Vla. Solo

Cello Solo

Str. Bass Solo

I

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vln. I Solo

Vln. II Solo

Vla. Solo

Cello Solo

Str. Bass Solo

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

29

30

Vln. I Solo

Vln. II Solo

Vla. Solo

Cello Solo

Str. Bass Solo

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31

32

33



Vln. I Solo

Vln. II Solo

Vla. Solo

Cello Solo

Str. Bass Solo

1. Repeat as many times as there are solos.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

1. Repeat as many times as there are solos.

34 35 36





I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

54 55 56

tremolo

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 54, 55, and 56. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 54 and 55 show rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs. Measure 56 begins with a 'tremolo' instruction and a long note. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

57 58 59

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 57, 58, and 59. It features the same five staves as the first system. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns, including slurs and accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I Vlns. II Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass

60 61 62

Go crazy with slides and tremolo!

tremolo

4 3

1 1 o

1 1 o

1 1 o

1 1 o

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of the musical score, covering measures 60, 61, and 62. It features the same five staves. Measure 60 has 'tremolo' markings on the Cello and Str. Bass staves. Measures 61 and 62 include performance instructions: 'Go crazy with slides and tremolo!' repeated for each instrument. Measure 62 also features fingering numbers (4, 3) and breath marks (1, 1, o). A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.