

HOLD ON

(Keep Your Hand on the Plow)

Spiritual

Arranged by Carrie Lane Gruselle

INSTRUMENTATION

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

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This African-American spiritual expresses the difficulty of the lives of those who would have been singing it, and yet, embedded in its intensity is a call for strength and perseverance. Freedom will come but we must hold on.

*Got my hand on the Gospel plow,
I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now.
Keep your hand on the plow, hold on.
Hold on! Hold on!
Keep your hand on the plow, hold on.*

Both struggle and hope are represented in this arrangement by variations in scoring, beginning with the cello and bass in their lower register and ending with the violins in third position, and by fluctuating dynamics and varying articulations. The relatively dark key of D minor allows students to refine tuning F naturals and B flats, and yet the tonic of D keeps the students secure and centered.



Hold On

(Keep Your Hand on the Plow)

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Duration - 2:30

Spiritual

Arr. By Carrie Lane Gruselle

Moderato (♩ = 60)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Musical score for the first system (Measures 1-4) of 'Hold On'. The score is for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The tempo is Moderato (♩ = 60). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked *f* (forte) for all instruments. The score shows the beginning of the piece with various rhythmic patterns and rests.

Allegro (♩ = 82) 9

Vlns.

Via.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for the second system (Measures 5-9) of 'Hold On'. The tempo is Allegro (♩ = 82). The score is for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) for Violins I and II, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Viola and String Bass, and *mp* for Cello. The score shows a change in tempo and dynamics, with some instruments playing sixteenth notes and others playing quarter notes.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

10 11 12 13 14

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

17

15 16 17 18 19

mf

mf

mf

pizz.

pizz.

(b)²

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

20 21 22 23 24

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

25 26 27 28 29

33 pizz.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

30 31 32 33 34

37 arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

f

f

arco

arco

35 36 37 38 39

41

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp

mf

pizz.

mf

mp

40 41 42 43 44

49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

45 46 47 48 49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

50 51 52 53 54

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 50 through 54. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music is in a minor key with a common time signature. The Violin I and II parts have melodic lines with some slurs and accents. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide a harmonic and rhythmic foundation. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

55 56 57 58 59

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 55 through 59. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music continues from the previous block. Dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and *p* (piano) are used to indicate volume changes. The Cello part includes fingerings 'x2', 'x3', and 'x4'. A box containing the number '57' is placed above the Cello staff at the beginning of measure 57. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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

60 61 62 63 64

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 60 through 64. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are also performance instructions like *V* (vibrato) and *(b)* (bend). A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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

65 66 67 68

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 65 through 68. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one flat. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are also performance instructions like *>* (accent) and *V* (vibrato). A large red watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

69 70 71 72 73

mp

mp

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

74 75 76 77

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

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

div. 81

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

arco

arco

78 79 80 81 82

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

Molto meno mosso

85

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

83 84 85 86 87 88

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