

# 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 score is for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The tempo is Allegro (♩ = 82). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) for Violins I and II, *mp* for Viola, *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Cello, and *mf* for String Bass. 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

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

pizz.

pizz.

15 16 17 18 19

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

30 31 32 33 34

37 arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

f

f

f

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

This block contains the musical score for measures 50 through 54. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music is in a minor key and includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamics. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

55 56 57 58 59

This block contains the musical score for measures 55 through 59. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music continues with dynamic markings such as *f* and *p*. A box containing the number 57 is present above the second violin staff. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

60 61 62 63 64

This musical score covers measures 60 to 64. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measures 60 and 61 contain eighth-note patterns. Measure 62 has a half note. Measure 63 features a dynamic marking of *f* and a fermata. Measure 64 concludes with a half note. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

65 66 67 68

This musical score covers measures 65 to 68. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 65 is marked with a box containing the number 65. Measures 65 and 66 contain eighth-note patterns with accents (>). Measures 67 and 68 contain quarter-note patterns with accents (>). A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.



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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