

# A SONG FOR ADRA

By Brendan McBrien

## INSTRUMENTATION

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



**Please note:** Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

## PROGRAM NOTES

Years ago I wrote a work called “Adra’s Dance” about the imaginary friend our then 3-year-old daughter, Megan, created. Years have passed and all three of our children have grown. But for my wife and I, the inevitability of our children growing up and ultimately leaving home has been a reality since they were born. But nothing, not even knowing that, could fully prepare us for it actually happening—the “growing up” part I mean.

Our daughter Megan is now 16, and she has developed into a bright, funny, and beautiful young lady. Even though she doesn’t talk about her imaginary friend Adra anymore, there’s always going to be part of her that will remind me of Adra, and as I watch her grow and her interests in school, tennis, and boys begin to crowd out that precious childhood imagination, it’s important for us to look between the cracks of adolescence and recognize that all of that creativity has not been pressed out, but has taken root and become a vital part of who she is and who she will continue to become.

“A Song for Adra” mingles the energy and optimism of “Adra’s Dance” with a hint of sadness at the inevitable growth and maturation of our children. It’s not a work that holds regret, but dutifully acknowledges the “march of time” and that nothing can be done to stop it. So it celebrates where we are, where we’re going, and how thankful we are to have this one life to live, love, and grow in. God bless you, Megan, and never let your imagination grow old.

*Brendan McBrien*

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

With the same sparkle and energy of its predecessor, “Adra’s Dance,” this new companion piece adds a touch of maturity as Adra’s creator, the composer’s daughter, has grown into a young lady. Your students and audiences will love the optimism and joy in this music.

The repeated eighth-note lines should be played with a light brush-stroke to give it energy. If this is not possible then play them slightly detached (*poco staccato*) to create energy. The passage marked *spiccato* should be played true to style—light and off the string. In the final measure, the first violins, cellos, and basses have an arco half note followed by a pizzicato quarter. The half note should be held as long as possible before lifting for the pizzicato to avoid a large break in the line.



11

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

8 9 10 11

*mp*

*f*

*f*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

12 13 14 15

*mf*

*div.*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

16 17 18

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

19 20 21 22

*mf*

*mp*

Score for measures 23 to 26. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measure 23: Vlns. I has a whole rest. Vlns. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G2. Cello has a quarter note G2. Str. Bass has a half note G1.

Measure 24: Vlns. I has a half note A4, marked *div.*. Vlns. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G2. Cello has a quarter note G2. Str. Bass has a half note G1.

Measure 25: Vlns. I has a half note A4. Vlns. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G2. Cello has a quarter note G2. Str. Bass has a half note G1.

Measure 26: Vlns. I has a half note A4. Vlns. II has a half note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G2. Cello has a quarter note G2. Str. Bass has a half note G1.

Score for measures 27 to 30. The score is for five parts: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measure 27: Vlns. I has a whole rest. Vlns. II has a half note G4, marked *mp*. Vla. has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Cello has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Str. Bass has a half note G1, marked *p*.

Measure 28: Vlns. I has a whole rest. Vlns. II has a half note G4, marked *mp*. Vla. has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Cello has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Str. Bass has a half note G1, marked *p*.

Measure 29: Vlns. I has a whole rest. Vlns. II has a half note G4, marked *mf*. Vla. has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Cello has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Str. Bass has a half note G1, marked *p*.

Measure 30: Vlns. I has a whole rest. Vlns. II has a half note G4, marked *mf*. Vla. has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Cello has a quarter note G2, marked *p* spiccato. Str. Bass has a half note G1, marked *p*.

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

31 32 33 34

Vlns. I *f* *div.*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

35 36 37 38

39

Vlns. I *mp*

Vlns. II *mp*

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass *mp*

39 40 41

Vlns. I *mf* *div.*

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

42 43 44 45



I  
 Vlns.  
 II  
 Vla.  
 Cello  
 Str. Bass

46 47 48

*mf*  
*mp*  
*mp*

Only Purchase

**Vlns.**  
**Vla.**  
**Cello**  
**Str. Bass**

Musical score for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The score is for measures 49, 50, and 51. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Violin I part starts with a *V* marking above the first measure. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts have a *V* marking above the first measure. The score is watermarked with "Legal Use Required".

div.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

52 53 54

55

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*p* spiccato

*f*

Solo

*f*

*sim.*

*sim.*

*p*

55 56 57

**Vlns.**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

58 59 60

This block contains the first system of a musical score, spanning measures 58 to 60. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Violin I staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 58 and 59, and a fermata in measure 60. The Violin II staff follows a similar pattern. The Viola and Cello staves play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The String Bass staff provides a simple harmonic foundation with quarter notes. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

**Vlns.**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

61 62 63

This block contains the second system of the musical score, spanning measures 61 to 63. It continues the same instrumentation and key signature as the first system. The Violin I staff has a melodic line with a slur over measures 61 and 62, and a fermata in measure 63. The Violin II staff follows a similar pattern. The Viola and Cello staves play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The String Bass staff provides a simple harmonic foundation with quarter notes. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

65

div.  
Tutti

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf*

Tutti

*mf**mp**mp**mp*

64

65

66

Vlns.

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

67

68

69

73

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

70 71 72 73

*mp*

*f*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

74 75 76

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Violins I (Vlns. I) and Violins II (Vlns. II) are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Cello and String Bass (Str. Bass) are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Violins I (Vlns. I) and Violins II (Vlns. II) are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Viola (Vla.) and Cello are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The String Bass (Str. Bass) is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Violins I (Vlns. I) and Violins II (Vlns. II) are marked *div.* (divisi). The Viola (Vla.) and Cello are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The String Bass (Str. Bass) is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Measures 77, 78, and 79 are indicated.

Score for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass).

Violins I (Vlns. I) and Violins II (Vlns. II) are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Cello and String Bass (Str. Bass) are in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Violins I (Vlns. I) and Violins II (Vlns. II) are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Viola (Vla.) and Cello are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The String Bass (Str. Bass) is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Violins I (Vlns. I) and Violins II (Vlns. II) are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Viola (Vla.) and Cello are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The String Bass (Str. Bass) is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Measures 80, 81, 82, and 83 are indicated.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

84 85 86 87

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

88 89 90 91

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

92 93 94

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

95 96 97 98

*div.* 8

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*pizz.*

*div.* 8

*pizz.*

*pizz.*