

STRING ALTERNATIVES SERIES

Today

Robert Gardner

INSTRUMENTATION

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

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Program Notes

Today is an intense, up-tempo piece in a power-rock style, similar to the Ramones, Green Day, or the Foo Fighters. The spirit of the piece is the enthusiastic embracing of living in the moment. This piece utilizes an aggressive style that is fun to perform, and a tonality that is familiar to the students. The piece is technically accessible but also challenging because of its energetic tempo, independent voicing, and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. There is an underlying repeated rhythmic accompaniment that runs throughout and is the driving engine behind the groove in a rock style. The melody moves around the ensemble, and is sometimes understated and mysterious, and other times stridently soars above the raucous rhythm section. The energy of the performance grows throughout the piece, and builds to a wall of sound with the orchestra playing expanded chords with double stops. This piece celebrates the confident enthusiasm and 'joie de vivre' that we experience when we gain independence, strive to seize the day, and live our lives to the fullest.

Notes to the Conductor

Today is technically accessible, using mostly first position (some third position in the first violin) and few accidentals. At the same time, this piece will challenge your group with its energetic tempo, independent voicing, and syncopated, interlocking rhythms. The entire piece should be performed with a heavy punk rock or power pop style in mind. Students should be taught to use a lot of bow weight into the string and sharp articulation, and to play as if they had a drum set accompaniment behind them. Perform the piece as close to the indicated tempo as possible, and keep a steady tempo, because allowing it to drag can create a flat and uninteresting performance. Play all syncopated rhythms with strong and clear staccato articulation. Be sure to bring out the accents in the running eighth note accompaniment patterns, which run almost throughout the piece and should always groove. Parts marked with louder dynamics are generally the melody line in that section. Balancing the melody with the accompaniment patterns so all can be heard will facilitate a tighter and more exciting performance. Adding a drumset player to the piece would enhance the performance. The drummer can play a basic two-beat punk rock pattern (e.g., "Ballroom Blitz" by Sweet), with the bass drum using the syncopated rhythms in the eighth note accompaniment patterns, and the accents in the melodies to guide improvised fills.

Today

CONDUCTOR SCORE

Robert Gardner

Duration - 4:00

Molto agitato (♩ = 96)

Violins

Viola

Cello

String Bass

f *sim.* *f* *sim.* *f* *sim.*

**all parts, sempre non-divisi, unless marked*

Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

div. *f* *ff* *non-div.* *f* *sim.* *ff* *f*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

11 12 13 14 15

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

16 17 18 19 20

chop

mp

mf

sim.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

21 22 23 24 25

f

chop

mp

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

26 27 28 29 30

sim.

sim.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

31 32 33 34

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

35 36 37 38 39

41

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

40 41 42 43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

44 45 46 47 48

div.

49

Vlns. I *mf* *sim.*

Vlns. II *sim.*

Vla. *mf* *sim.*

Cello *mf* *sim.*

Str. Bass *mf* *sim.*

49 50 51 52 53

57

Vlns. I *mp* *div.* *sim.*

Vlns. II *mp* *sim.*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

54 55 56 57 58

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

59 60 61 62 63

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

64 65 66 67 68

65

f

mf

sim.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

73

69 70 71 72 73

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

74 75 76 77 78

81

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

79 80 81 82 83

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

84 85 86 87 88

89

Vlns. I *fff*

Vlns. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*
marcato

Str. Bass *ff*

sim.

89 90 91 92

**quick slides into notes, like guitar bends*

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

93 94 95 96

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

97 98 99 100

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

101 102 103 104

105 (□)

Vlns. I *f* *decresc.* *mf* *mp* *p*

Vlns. II *f* *decresc.* *mf* *sim.*

Vla. *f* *decresc.* *mf* *sim.*

Cello *f* *decresc.* *mf* *sim.*

Str. Bass *f* *decresc.* *mf* *sim.*

105 106 107 108

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. *mp* *p*

Cello *mp* *p*

Str. Bass *mp* *p*

109 110 111 112

113

Vlns. I *mf*

Vlns. II *pizz. div. p*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *pizz.*

Str. Bass *pizz.*

113 114 115 116 117

121

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

118 119 120 121 122

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

123 124 125 126 127

cresc. *f* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *mf* *cresc.* *mf*

mf arco

This musical score covers measures 123 to 127. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *cresc.* (crescendo) and *f* (forte). There are also performance instructions like *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *arco* (arco). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

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

128 129 130 131 132

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

arco *arco*

This musical score covers measures 128 to 132. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte). There are also performance instructions like *arco* (arco) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large red watermark 'Preview Only Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

133 134 135 136 137

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

138 139 140 141 142

Musical score for measures 143-147. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#).
- **Violins I:** Measure 143 has a whole note chord marked (V). Measures 145-147 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **Violins II:** Measure 143 has a whole note chord marked V. Measures 145-147 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **Viola:** Measure 143 has a whole note chord marked (V). Measures 145-147 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **Cello:** Measures 143-147 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **String Bass:** Measures 143-147 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
Measure numbers 143, 144, 145, 146, and 147 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Musical score for measures 148-151. The score is for five instruments: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#).
- **Violins I:** Measures 148-151 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **Violins II:** Measures 148-151 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **Viola:** Measures 148-151 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **Cello:** Measures 148-151 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
- **String Bass:** Measures 148-151 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a dynamic marking of *ff*.
Measure numbers 148, 149, 150, and 151 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

153

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

152 153 154 155

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

156 157 158 159 160

161

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

pesante

chop

sim.

161 162 163 164 165

169

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

166 167 168 169

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

170 171 172 173

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

174 175 176 177

fff

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

178 179 180 181

sim.

This block contains the first system of musical notation, covering measures 178 to 181. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, such as eighth and sixteenth notes, with accents (>) and dynamic markings like *sim.* (sforzando). Measure numbers 178, 179, 180, and 181 are printed below the respective staves.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

182 183 184 185

This block contains the second system of musical notation, covering measures 182 to 185. It features the same five staves as the first system. The notation continues with similar rhythmic patterns and accents. Measure numbers 182, 183, 184, and 185 are printed below the respective staves. A box containing the number 185 is located above the end of the Cello staff in the fourth measure.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

186 187 188 189

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

molto rit.

div.

190 191 192 193

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