



As performed by Imagine Dragons

# Believer

Words and Music by Justin Tranter, Daniel Platzman, Benjamin McKee, Daniel Sermon,  
Daniel Reynolds, Robin Fredriksson and Mattias Larsson

Arranged by Victor López

## INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Full Score
- 8 Violin I
- 8 Violin II
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass
- 1 Piano Accompaniment  
(Optional)
- 1 Drumset

## PROGRAM NOTES

*Believer* is a pop song by the American rock band Imagine Dragons. It peaked at number four on the US Billboard Hot 100, becoming the band's third top ten hit in the U.S. *Believer* was the number one song on several Billboard year-end charts, including the Hot Rock Songs chart, the Rock Airplay chart, and the Alternative Songs chart.

*Believer* became the fifth best-selling song of 2017 in the United States, selling over one and a half million copies. Additionally, the song was used in a Nintendo Switch commercial shown during Super Bowl LI, in a Bleacher Report video tribute to the NBA Slam Dunk Contest, and appeared in the trailer for *Murder on the Orient Express*. In a nutshell, *Believer* has had worldwide appeal, and Imagine Dragons has become one of the most popular bands in America.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at [www.alfred.com/stringeditorial](http://www.alfred.com/stringeditorial).

X  
extended position

-  
shift

,'  
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (q)  
high or low fingerings

▣ ▣ or V V  
hooked bowings

I hope you will find these explanations to be helpful. Best wishes with all of your musical endeavors!

Chris M. Bernotas  
Director of String Publications



### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This arrangement introduces the glissando, a technique used in all music genres. The term glissando comes from the French word *glisser*, which means to glide. The glissando is played on one string and is the effect of sliding the finger from a note to another note, thereby producing a connection between the two notes. The glissando is first introduced in the Violin I part, then Violin II, Viola (Violin III), and eventually, the Cello.

To establish the rock shuffle groove, the eighth notes should not be played straight; they need to be played as shuffle eighth notes—meaning that they have to be “swung,” like in jazz. The best way of getting the “swing” concept is to listen to jazz, but also the original recording of this song. To facilitate the correct playing style, students can listen to the promotional recording, which can be downloaded from the Alfred Music website at [www.alfred-music.com](http://www.alfred-music.com).

At measure 9, with some exceptions, the drumset has a basic and modified rock shuffle pattern throughout. The idea is for the drummer to maintain the intensity of the pattern throughout and not overpower the ensemble.

Note that the Piano part is optional and will enhance the musical effectiveness of the piece.

This piece is fun to play, and I am sure that it will be a hit with your students and audience. Believe it!



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FULL SCORE

Duration - 2:35

Medium Rock Shuffle (♩ = 126) (♩♩ = ♩<sup>3</sup>)

Violins I

Violins II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Piano Accompaniment (Optional)

Drumset

Measures 1-4. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*, *mf sim.*, *mf*. Drumset: H.H. closed.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

Measures 5-8. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, *mp*, *mf*. Drumset: Tom-Toms.

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This musical score page contains measures 9 through 16. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Vlns. I:** Measures 9-10 have a whole note chord (F#4, C5) with *mp* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a whole note chord (F#4, C5) with *sim.* dynamics.
- Vlns. II:** Measures 9-10 have a quarter-note melody (F4, G4, A4, B4) with *mf* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a quarter-note melody (F4, G4, A4, B4) with *mf* dynamics.
- Vla.:** Measures 9-10 have a quarter-note melody (F3, G3, A3, B3) with *mp* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a quarter-note melody (F3, G3, A3, B3) with *mf* dynamics.
- Cello:** Measures 9-10 have a whole note chord (F3, C4) with *mp* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a whole note chord (F3, C4) with *mf* dynamics.
- Str. Bass:** Measures 9-10 have a quarter-note melody (F3, G3, A3, B3) with *mp* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a quarter-note melody (F3, G3, A3, B3) with *mf* dynamics.
- Pno. Accomp.:** Measures 9-10 have a quarter-note melody (F4, G4, A4, B4) with *mp* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a quarter-note melody (F4, G4, A4, B4) with *mf* dynamics.
- Drumset:** Measures 9-10 have a pattern of eighth notes (G, A, B) with *mp* dynamics. Measures 11-12 have a pattern of eighth notes (G, A, B) with *mf* dynamics.

Measures 13-16 continue the same patterns and dynamics as measures 9-12. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.



25

Vlns. I *f*

Vlns. II *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 25-28, strings section. It includes staves for Violins I and II (both marked *f*), Viola (marked *mf*), Cello (marked *mf*), and String Bass. The music is in a minor key with a common time signature. Measures 25-28 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations like accents and slurs.

25

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

Musical score for measures 25-28, piano and drumset. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The drumset part features a consistent pattern of snare, hi-hat, and bass drum with triplet accents.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 29-32, strings section. It includes staves for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns and articulations as the previous section, with some dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*.

29

30

31

32

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

Musical score for measures 29-32, piano and drumset. The piano accompaniment and drumset parts continue with their respective rhythmic patterns, including triplet accents in the drumset.

33

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

This section contains the first five staves of the musical score, labeled Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. Each staff begins with a measure number '33' in a box. The notation consists of eighth-note triplets with accents and dynamic markings 'V' (vibrato) and 'v' (accents). The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

33 34 35 36

This section contains the piano accompaniment and drumset parts for measures 33-36. The piano part (Pno. Accomp.) is written on two staves (treble and bass clef) and features eighth-note triplets with accents and dynamic markings 'v' and 'vdi'. The drumset part (Drumset) is on a single staff with various rhythmic patterns, including eighth-note triplets and accents. Measure numbers 33, 34, 35, and 36 are indicated at the bottom of the drumset staff.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf*

*f*

This section contains the next five staves of the musical score, labeled Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, and Str. Bass. The notation continues with eighth-note triplets and accents. Dynamic markings '*mf*' and '*f*' are present. The key signature remains one flat.

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

37 38 39 40

This section contains the piano accompaniment and drumset parts for measures 37-40. The piano part continues with eighth-note triplets and accents. The drumset part features similar rhythmic patterns with accents. Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, and 40 are indicated at the bottom of the drumset staff.

This musical score page contains measures 41 through 48. The instruments are arranged as follows:

- Vlns. I & II:** Violin I and Violin II staves, both in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat).
- Vla.:** Viola staff in alto clef with a key signature of one flat.
- Cello & Str. Bass:** Cello and String Bass staves in bass clef with a key signature of one flat.
- Pno. Accomp.:** Piano accompaniment, consisting of a right-hand treble clef and a left-hand bass clef, with a key signature of one flat.
- Drumset:** Drumset staff in a standard 2/4 time signature, featuring a *Ride Cym.* (ride cymbal) part.

Measure numbers 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48 are clearly marked at the bottom of their respective measures. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (e.g., *ff*), articulation (accents, slurs), and rhythmic patterns (triplets, eighth notes). A large, semi-transparent red watermark reading "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.



49

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

*f*

49 50 51 52

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

*ff*

53 54 55 56

57

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

*f*

57 58 59 60

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

61 62 63 64

65

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

65 66 67 68

69 70 71 72

This musical score page contains measures 65 through 72. It is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Piano Accompaniment (Pno. Accomp.), and Drumset. The score is in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present at the beginning of measures 65, 66, and 67. The drumset part features a consistent pattern of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with occasional triplets. The string parts consist of eighth-note patterns in the violins and violas, and quarter-note patterns in the cellos and string bass. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, and 72 are clearly marked at the bottom of their respective staves.

73

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 73-75, strings section. It includes staves for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The music is in a minor key and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents and dynamic markings like *f*.

73

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

Musical score for measures 73-75, piano and drumset. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in both hands. The drumset part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and accents. Dynamic markings include *f*.

I Vlns.

II Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Musical score for measures 76-77, strings section. The strings play sustained notes with dynamic markings of *ff* and *f*. There are also some triplet markings in the lower strings.

Pno. Accomp.

Drumset

Musical score for measures 76-79, piano and drumset. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and single notes, including a *ff* marking. The drumset part features a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets and accents.