

As Performed by Michael Jackson

THRILLER

Words and Music by ROD TEMPERTON

Arranged by SOON HEE NEWBOLD

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor Score
- 8 Violin 1
- 8 Violin 2
- 5 Viola
- 5 Violoncello
- 5 Double Bass (Electric Bass)
- 1 Electric Guitar
- 1 Drum Set
- 2 Auxiliary Percussion
(Medium and Large Cowbells)
- 1 Synthesizer



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



THE ARRANGER

Soon Hee Newbold is an internationally acclaimed composer and conductor known for incorporating differing cultural and ethnic styles in her writing, inspired by her experiences and travel. She started her musical journey at the age of 5 on piano and violin at age 7 and performed as a concert artist in professional ensembles around the world.

As a composer, Ms. Newbold's works are performed by groups ranging in all levels from professional symphonies to beginning elementary ensembles in venues such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, Disney Hall, Lincoln Center, the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic, and many more worldwide stages.

Ms. Newbold is frequently sought after as a keynote speaker and guest clinician. She has conducted and worked with orchestras and bands throughout the U.S. and overseas such as The Netherlands, Belgium, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, and China. As a filmmaker and composer in Hollywood, her music can also be heard in film and other recording projects.

ABOUT THE MUSIC

The classic and iconic song *Thriller* was performed by Michael Jackson and released in 1982. The music and lyrics were written by Rod Temperton who originally called it *Starlight*. The song was produced by Quincy Jones and the music video was directed by John Landis with the legendary Vincent Price speaking the narration. The video and song were a smash hit and have endured, making a huge impact on pop culture.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Play the separated eighth notes short. The piece can be performed with strings only. You may also substitute traditional piano for keyboards. If using narration, repeat the sections as many times as needed. If the timing is too complicated for the two verses, feel free to cut the first repeated section and the zombie dance and only play the last section repeating as necessary until complete. If there is no narration, you can cut measures 93–96 and repeat the ending only once. Be creative with the Thriller Zombie Dance section, adding stomps or claps if feasible along with the iconic zombie hands. You can even consider showcasing your best improv soloists. There are a few suggestions in the score. Have fun with it!

Chop Technique: This is a popular technique in fiddle and jazz playing for strings that became popular in the 60s. If players are unfamiliar with the technique, it may be helpful to view the many tutorials online that walk players through step by step. The percussive sound is accomplished by muffling the strings lightly with the left hand, turning the bow with the stick toward the bridge and the hair facing the fingerboard, covering two or more strings like a double stop when "chopping," and striking almost at a sideways angle across the string (not perpendicular like traditional playing).

Pizzicato: There are several ways to play this guitar lick. Pizz. only the first note of the 16ths and move the fingers. The residual pizz. should sound both notes. There are slurs in the parts to notate this method. Another option is to use two fingers on the bow hand to pizz. every note.

Col Legno: The trick is to find a mid point in the bow that bounces but can be easily controlled. The more vertical you tap the stick, the easier it tends to be. Like the first pizz. technique, you can tap just the first note of the 16ths with more accent and move the fingers, the second note will sound in the residual ring.

See what works for your ensemble as far as splitting up the two techniques. The easiest is to have the outside pizz. and inside col legno but for balance, you may need to have more players on one or the other. Relax and don't tense up. You can always arco these sections as well. Keep the notes as short as possible and bring the dynamics down one or two notches.

Narration:

1. Darkness falls across the land
 The midnight hour is close at hand
 Creatures crawl in search of blood
 To terrorize y'all's neighborhood
 And whosoever shall be found
 Without the soul for getting down
 Must stand and face the hounds of hell
 And rot inside a corpse's shell.

2. The foulest stench is in the air
 The funk of forty thousand years
 And grizzly ghouls from every tomb
 Are closing in to seal your doom
 And though you fight to stay alive
 Your body starts to shiver
 For no mere mortal can resist
 The evil of the thriller.

As Performed by Michael Jackson

Words and Music by
ROD TEMPERTON
Arranged by
SOON HEE NEWBOLD

SOON HEE NEWBOLD

50714S

**Scan to
interact**



Score for measures 10 through 13. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B. (E.B.), E. Gtr., D.S., Aux. Perc., and Synth. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *Lrg. f* (Larghetto, forte). The score shows a transition from a sustained harmonic texture in measures 10-11 to a more rhythmic, driving texture in measures 12-13.

Score for measures 14 through 17. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B. (E.B.), E. Gtr., D.S., Aux. Perc., and Synth. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *f* (forte). The score shows a continuation of the driving texture from the previous page, with a prominent "chop" effect indicated in measure 15. The Synth part is labeled "Electric Piano/Synth Pad".

18 19 20 21

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

22 23 24 25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

chop

26 27 28 29

31

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

30 31 32 33

8

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

34 35 36 37

38

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

half pizz. /
half col legno

38 39 40 41

43 % chop

Score for measures 42-45. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B. (E.B.), E. Gtr., D.S., Aux. Perc., and Synth. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 43 is marked with a box containing the number 43 and a symbol for a chop. The score features various musical notations including dynamics (f, pp, mp), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (arco).

Score for measures 46-49. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D.B. (E.B.), E. Gtr., D.S., Aux. Perc., and Synth. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score features various musical notations including dynamics (f, pp, mp), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (arco).

51

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

50 51 52 53

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

54 55 56 57

59

58 59 60 61

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

ff

chop

To Coda ☐

62 63 64 65

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

chop

66

66 67 68 69

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

72

70 71 72 73

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

74 75 76 77

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B. (E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

78 $\text{\textcircled{S}}$ Coda 81

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B. (E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

78 79 80 81

14

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

82 83 84 85

88

chop

chop

half pizz. /
half col legno

50714S 86 87 88

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The top staves are for Violin 1 and Violin 2, followed by Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Below these are the Electric Guitar, Double Bass (labeled D.B. (E.B.)), Auxiliary Percussion, and Synthesizer. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 82 to 85, and the second system covers measures 86 to 88. Measure 88 is highlighted with a box. Performance instructions include 'chop' for the Violins and Viola in measures 85 and 88, and 'half pizz. / half col legno' for the Violoncello in measure 88. The Electric Guitar and Double Bass parts feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and sixteenth notes. The Synthesizer part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

90

93 Narration 1 (opt. cut to ms. 105):

Darkness falls across the land
The midnight hour is close at hand
Creatures crawl in search of blood
To terrorize y'all's neighborhood

And whosoever shall be found
Without the soul for getting down
Must stand and face the hounds of hell
And rot inside a corpse's shell.

Repeat ad lib.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

Pipe Organ

mp

93

Thriller Zombie Dance (choreograph if desired!)
(Opt. Improv Solos)

chop

stomp

half pizz. /
half col legno

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

97

50714S 101

The musical score is for a piece titled "Thriller Zombie Dance" with a tempo of 16. It includes a choreograph suggestion and optional improvisation solos. The score is written for a full ensemble of instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass (or Electric Bass), Electric Guitar, Double Bass, Auxiliary Percussion, and Synthesizer. The score is divided into two systems, with the first system starting at measure 97 and the second system starting at measure 101. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like "chop", "stomp", "half pizz.", and "half col legno". A large red watermark reading "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the score.

Narration 2: The foulest stench is in the air
The funk of forty thousand years
And grizzly ghouls from every tomb
Are closing in to seal your doom

And though you fight to stay alive
Your body starts to shiver
For no mere mortal can resist
The evil of the thriller.

17

104

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.
(E.B.)

E. Gtr.

D.S.

Aux. Perc.

Synth.

1. Repeat ad lib. 2.

fff arco

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

50714S 107