

A Ray of Joy

By Adrian Gordon

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
- 8 Violin I
- 8 Violin II
- 5 Violin III (Viola )
- 5 Viola
- 5 Cello
- 5 String Bass

PROGRAM NOTES

A Ray of Joy is a contemplative and emotionally resonant composition written about the love and admiration that I have for my parents, who are named Ray and Joy Gordon. My parents have always been a positive and encouraging light in my life, and writing a piece such as this is one of the ways that I always wished to honor them. The music begins with a delicate and evocative melody reminiscent of the first light of dawn breaking through a misty morning. The simplicity of the main melody beginning in measure five allows for a deep emotional connection, inviting the listener to reflect on moments of tranquility and happiness in their own lives.

The main theme that begins with the first violins in measure five was actually inspired by the intervals heard in a Ford Motor Company car door opening (P5 to a m3) and can be heard echoing throughout the piece. Writing this piece was a great reminder to myself that musical ideas and inspiration can come from anywhere, as long as you are willing to listen.

As you perform this piece, be sure to play as expressively as possible by utilizing long bows and vibrato while also carefully balancing the dynamic contrasts in each section to help convey a range of emotions, from moments of quiet introspection to the more soaring passages filled with joy.

PerformancePlus+ pieces have supplemental content only available in **MakeMusic Cloud**.

Access these supplemental exercises and explore all of the features of MakeMusic Cloud with a trial subscription.

For more information and to activate your 30-day free trial, go to:

makemusic.com/pp-free-30-days

Performance
PLUS



A Ray of Joy

FULL SCORE
Duration - 3:10

By Adrian Gordon (BMI)

Peacefully ♩ = 60

Violins

Violin I

Violin II

Viola (Violin III)

Cello

String Bass

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

div.

1 2 3 4

This musical score is for measures 5 through 8 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. It is arranged for a string quartet, featuring Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is D major (two sharps) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the dynamics are 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The score includes fingerings, bowings, and articulation marks. A large red watermark 'Legal Use Required' is overlaid on the image.

Violins I (Vlns. I): Measures 5-8. Starts with a 5th finger on D5, followed by a 4th finger on E5, then a 3rd finger on F#5, and finally a 4th finger on G5. The melody is played with a bow.

Violins II (Vlns. II): Measures 5-8. Starts with a 4th finger on D4, followed by a 3rd finger on E4, then a 2nd finger on F#4, and finally a 1st finger on G4. The melody is played with a bow.

Viola (Vln. III): Measures 5-8. Starts with a 3rd finger on D4, followed by a 2nd finger on E4, then a 1st finger on F#4, and finally a 3rd finger on G4. The melody is played with a bow.

Cello: Measures 5-8. Starts with a 4th finger on D3, followed by a 3rd finger on E3, then a 2nd finger on F#3, and finally a 1st finger on G3. The melody is played with a bow.

String Bass (Str. Bass): Measures 5-8. Starts with a 4th finger on D2, followed by a 3rd finger on E2, then a 2nd finger on F#2, and finally a 1st finger on G2. The melody is played with a bow.



4 V V

Vlns.

II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

9 10 11 12

f

13

Vlns.

II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

13 14 15 16

div
mp

f

mf

mf

pizz.
mf

4 4 3 4 0

4 4 2

Score for measures 17-20, featuring Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass.

Measures 17-20 show the following parts:

- Violins I:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measure 17 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 18 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 19 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 has a *mf* dynamic.
- Violins II:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measure 17 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 18 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 19 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 has a *mf* dynamic.
- Viola (Violin III):** Treble clef, key of D major. Measure 17 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 18 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 19 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 has a *mf* dynamic.
- Cello:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measure 17 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 18 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 19 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 has a *mf* dynamic.
- String Bass:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measure 17 starts with a *mf* dynamic. Measure 18 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 19 has a *mf* dynamic. Measure 20 has a *mf* dynamic.

Measures 17, 18, 19, and 20 are marked with measure numbers below the staff.

Score for measures 21-25, featuring Violins I and II, Viola (Violin III), Cello, and String Bass.

Measures 21-25 show the following parts:

- Violins I:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measure 21 starts with a *f* dynamic. Measure 22 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 23 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 24 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 25 has a *f* dynamic.
- Violins II:** Treble clef, key of D major. Measure 21 starts with a *f* dynamic. Measure 22 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 23 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 24 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 25 has a *f* dynamic.
- Viola (Violin III):** Treble clef, key of D major. Measure 21 starts with a *f* dynamic. Measure 22 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 23 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 24 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 25 has a *f* dynamic.
- Cello:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measure 21 starts with a *f* dynamic. Measure 22 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 23 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 24 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 25 has a *f* dynamic.
- String Bass:** Bass clef, key of D major. Measure 21 starts with a *f* dynamic. Measure 22 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 23 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 24 has a *f* dynamic. Measure 25 has a *f* dynamic.

Measures 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 are marked with measure numbers below the staff.

29

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

mp *f* *f* *f* *f*

26 27 28 29 30

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

div.

31 32 33 34 35

37

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mf

p

p

p

div.

36 37 38 39 40

45

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. (Vln. III)

Cello

Str. Bass

f

mf

mf

mf

mf

41 42 43 44 45

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla. (Vln. III)
 Cello
 Str. Bass

46 47 48 49

mp *mp* *mp* *mp*

4 4 4 0 rit.

Vlns. I
 Vlns. II
 Vla. (Vln. III)
 Cello
 Str. Bass

50 51 52 53

f *f* *f* *f*

a tempo div. 2 2 4

58 rit.

Vlns. I *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vlns. II *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vla. (Vln. III) *mp* *mf* *mp*

Cello *mp* *mf* *mp*

Str. Bass *mp* *mf* *mp*

54 55 56 57 58

Vlns. I *p*

Vlns. II *p*

Vla. (Vln. III) *p*

Cello *p*

Str. Bass *p*

59 60 61 62 63