

# Race to the Fortress

Dión Morales

for  
STRING ORCHESTRA

**Full Score**

## **Instrumentation**

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1 Full Score  
8 Violin 1  
8 Violin 2  
5 Viola  
5 Violoncello  
5 Double Bass

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*Commissioned by Indian Trail Junior High School*

## About the Composer

**Dión** (pronounced: dee-own) **Morales** was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois. He did not begin his orchestral studies until he was a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. He received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music and completed his graduate studies at VanderCook in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010.

The arranging of music by minority composers for school orchestra programs is a project that he plans to continue to grow, bringing diversity to the repertoire available to fellow music educators.

While Dión is passionate about music education, he is also a professional broadcaster in the board game industry. He uses his musical skills to create original works that are used in live broadcasts and presentations.

## Program Notes

*Race to the Fortress* was commissioned by Indian Trails Junior High School in Addison, Illinois. Director Cynthia Toika requested a piece that captured the high-energy spirit of many of her students' favorite works.

For those familiar with my writing, many of my pieces are set within a fantasy world. In *Race to the Fortress*, I envision impending danger. A scout on horseback hurries to warn his commander. A mother, carrying her children, rushes toward safety. A young hero realizes he cannot face the moment alone.

There is only one choice for them all: Race to the Fortress!

## Performance Notes

*Race to the Fortress* is written in B minor and is intentionally crafted to avoid extensions and high third fingers, while still incorporating notes on the G string. This allows the darker color of the key to come through without adding unnecessary technical strain.

Performers should strive to keep the recurring eighth-note motif rhythmically even, especially as it passes from section to section. Maintaining the timing will help preserve the forward momentum and urgency of the piece. Exaggerating dynamic contrasts will heighten the drama and intensity of the musical narrative.

Low two on the E string appears only in the 1st Violin part. All notes should be played at full value with a focus on generating a clear, strong tone. Accented notes may be slightly shortened to clearly articulate the accent without sacrificing overall energy.

## Editor's Note

Orchestral bowings and fingerings can be highly subjective and personal. The choices a string editor makes are designed to be pedagogically appropriate for specific grade levels while facilitating student musicality and honoring composer intent. The editorial additions in the following composition will provide guidance "right out of the box" for the non-string player and suggest some options for the advanced string specialist. Enjoy!

J. Cameron Law, String Editor

Commissioned by Indian Trail Junior High School

# Race to the Fortress

Dión Morales

Adventurously ♩ = 120

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

6

9

middle of the bow

*p*

11

Musical score for measures 11-16. The score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 11-16 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the upper strings and quarter notes in the lower strings. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. A large watermark "SAMPLE" is visible across the page.

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 17-20 show a change in rhythm with some half notes and quarter notes. Dynamics include *p*. Performance instructions "middle of the bow" are present for the Violin I and II parts. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 18. A large watermark "SAMPLE" is visible across the page.

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 21-24 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamics include *f*. A large watermark "SAMPLE" is visible across the page.

29

middle of the bow

26

Musical score for measures 26-31. It features five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a double bass clef. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The music includes dynamics like 'p' (piano) and 'H2' (second harmonic). A 'middle of the bow' instruction is present. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

32

Musical score for measures 32-36. It features five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a double bass clef. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The music includes dynamics like 'f' (forte). A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

37

41

musical score for measures 37-41, including dynamics *p* and *f*, and the instruction "middle of the bow".

musical score for measures 42-46.

49

musical score for measures 47-49, including dynamics *fp* and *ff*.

52

Musical score for measures 52-56. The score is in 2/4 time and D major. It features five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the score.

57

Musical score for measures 57-61. The score is in 2/4 time and D major. It features five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present at the beginning of each staff. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the score.

62

Musical score for measures 62-65. The score is in 2/4 time and D major. It features five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music consists of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The dynamic marking *v* (accents) is present at the beginning of each staff. A large watermark 'SAMPLE' is visible across the score.