

RWS SYMPHONIC STRINGS SERIES

CONDUCTOR SCORE
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Four Portraits For Strings

(Robber's Roost, Call of the Canyon, The Rinky Dink Saloon, A Toast To Santa)

Dylan Fixmer

Symphonic Strings Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

Four Portraits For Strings

(Robber's Roost, Call of the Canyon, The Rinky Dink Saloon, A Toast To Santa)

Dylan Fixmer

Edited by Douglas Droste

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score.....	1
Violin 1.....	15
Violin 2.....	15
Viola.....	6
Cello.....	5
Double Bass.....	5

PROGRAM NOTE

Four Portraits For Strings is inspired by the whimsical cowboy artwork of Lloyd Mitchell. These short pieces attempt to capture in sound Mitchell's cartoonish, impressionistic style that beautifully displays romanticized notions of the wild west and draws attention to the drama of sheriffs, outlaws and cowboys wrapped in the stillness of desert landscapes.

The first portrait, entitled *Robber's Roost*, depicts a precariously positioned, rickety 19th century saloon atop an odd canyon cliff's edge. Hanging by a mere dead twig, swings a man in a bandana who has presumably fallen from the top of the cliff. A cowboy at the top of the cliff lowers a rope to his dangling friend, while a passed-out cowboy slumps next to him on the porch of the saloon; his hat covering his face. Mitchell's ability to capture drama begs the viewer to wonder "What will be the fate of this poor cowboy off the ledge?"

The second portrait, *Call of the Canyon*, depicts a narrow deep gorge, like many found in the Four Corners region of the United States, with an old wooden bridge spanning its length. A cowboy leans forward, saddled on his spooked Paint who has clearly not followed his instructions; "Don't look down!". A group on horseback rides along a ridge halfway down the canyon wall to give the viewer the scope of just how far down the Paint thinks he is going to fall when the teetering bridge finally turns over. The colorful sky and long shadows suggest that it is evening and persuades one to wonder "Will the cowboy and his Paint make it to the other side before dusk?"

The third portrait, called the *The Rinky Dink Saloon*, depicts another precariously positioned saloon, this time with a wide arching wooden bridge wrapping around the rock outcropping like a rolled-up piece of paper. The scorching sun sits slightly out of view behind the saloon, and a sun-beaten cowboy and his horse stammer through the heat on the wooden bridge suspended above what seems to be oblivion. The golden light emanating from inside the Rinky Dink seems to be a welcome respite and one can only hope that the cowboy and his horse make it to the saloon before the blazing sun takes them soaring off the edge of the precipice.

The last portrait, *A Toast To Santa*, depicts yet another saloon, but, on the night of December 24th, it sits under a blanket of snow and the cold winter moon. The cowboys, clearly a few drinks in already, head outside to sing what we can only assume are yuletide carols, and who to the wondering eyes should appear? As if summoned by the festivities and gaiety, eight tiny reindeer are seen soaring through the sky pulling good ol' Saint Nick who waves as if to almost certainly say "Merry Christmas!" to the cowboys below. Their chilled horses may be spooked, but the cowboys raise a glass to the jolly elf and the festivities continue for the long night.

Dylan Fixmer

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Colorado based composer and musician, **Dylan Fixmer**, has been described as "a very sincere creative artist" by composer Chen Yi and "an incredible composer" by conductor Lowell Graham. Classically trained at University of Colorado and Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Fixmer's music is inspired by the beauty of nature and the human spirit, and draws upon a multitude of musical styles and traditions from Classical to Rock, Jazz to Irish, Bluegrass to Hip-hop and beyond. Recent works include commissions and premiers from Opera Guanajuato, the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, the Front Range Chamber Players, the Crested Butte Music Festival, Old Machines Duo, UCHealth and the University of Northern Colorado Faculty Recital Series. Fixmer is currently Composer in Residence for the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra who premiered his *Concerto for Violin: In Memory of Terri Sternberg* with violinist Sarah Off, "which received a rapturous reception when it was performed" (*The Times of London*) on September 24, 2022. As a multi-faceted and imaginative composer, Fixmer writes for multifarious contexts from orchestral and traditional solo/ensemble work, to theater, film, and narrative including the soundtrack for the audio book "Adventures of a Mystic Warrior" by Robert Rocco D'Ordine, and author Craig Child's multi-media production "Dark Night." A public school teacher for over ten years, Fixmer has written dozens of works for student groups from flex ensemble wind band and jazz band contest pieces to student-collaborated orchestra works to full musicals. When he's not writing or playing music, Fixmer enjoys hiking with his wife, Sarah, and their dog, Bay.



FOUR PORTRAITS FOR STRINGS

Conductor Score

RWS-2393-00

(Robber's Roost)

Dylan Fixmer (ASCAP)

Allegretto ♩ = 106-110

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

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

2 3 4 5 6

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

13 14 15 16 17 18

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

19 20 21 22 23 24

21

arco

mf

arco

mf

mf

mf

mf

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

25 26 27 28 29 30

49

Solo

mf

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

Solo

f

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Tutti pizz.

p

p

Solo arco

mf

55 56 57 58 59 60

65

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

(pizz.)

p

Tutti (pizz.)

p

(pizz.)

p

Tutti pizz.

mf

61 62 63 64 65 66

arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

pizz.

67 68 69 70 71 72

(left hand slap)

(left hand slap)

73

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

73 74 75 76 77 78

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

79 80 81 82 83 84

85

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

85

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59

FOUR PORTRAITS FOR STRINGS

Conductor Score
RWS-2393-00

(Call of the Canyon)

Dylan Fixmer (ASCAP)

Adagio con moto ♩ = 62-66

Violin 1: pizz. (measure 1), arco (measure 5), *pp* (measure 5)

Violin 2: arco (measure 2), *pp* (measure 2), arco (measure 5), *pp* (measure 5)

Viola: pizz. (measure 1), *pp* (measure 1), arco (measure 5), *pp* (measure 5)

Cello: arco (measure 3), *pp* (measure 3)

Double Bass: arco (measure 3), *pp* (measure 3)

Violin 1: pizz. (measure 6), arco (measure 8), *p* (measure 8)

Violin 2: arco (measure 6), *p* (measure 8)

Viola: pizz. (measure 6), arco (measure 8), *mp* (measure 8)

Cello: arco (measure 6), *p* (measure 8)

Double Bass: arco (measure 6), *p* (measure 8)

Measures 1-5 and 6-9 are shown. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid across the page.

12

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

10 11 12 13

mp

mp

mp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

14 15 16 17

mp

f

Solo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

18 19 20 21

23

pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Tutti pizz.

arco

pp

22 23 24 25

29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

p

Solo arco

mp

26 27 28 29 30

(pizz.)

mp

pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

mp

p

31 32 33 34

36

Vln. 1 *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p*

Vla. *p* Tutti

Vcl. *pp* *p* arco

D.B. pizz. *p*

35 36 37 38

Vln. 1 arco *mf*

Vln. 2 arco *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. arco *mf*

D.B. *mf*

39 40 41 42

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *V*

Vcl.

D.B.

43 44 45 46

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

47 48 49

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

50 51 52 53

pizz.
mp
p

pizz.
mp
p

pizz.
mp
p

pizz.
mp
p

pizz.
mp
p

pizz.
mp
p

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

54 55 56 57 58

FOUR PORTRAITS FOR STRINGS

Conductor Score

RWS-2393-00

(The Rinky Dink Saloon)

Dylan Fixmer (ASCAP)

Moderato ♩ = 92

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

9 10 11 12

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

pizz.

pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

13 14 15 16

arco

arco

pizz.

pizz.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

17 18 19 20

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

20

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* div.

Vla. *mf*

Vcl. *mf*

D.B.

27 22 23 24

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *p* unis.

Vla. *p*

Vcl. *p*

D.B. *p*

25 26 27 28

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

29 30 31 32

35

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

mp

mp

mp

mp

p

33 34 35 36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

rit.

37 38 39 40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

pizz.

pp

pizz.

pp

pizz.

pp

pp

41 42 43 44

FOUR PORTRAITS FOR STRINGS

Conductor Score
RWS-2393-00

(A Toast To Santa)

Dylan Fixmer (ASCAP)

Allegro con moto ♩ = 140-160

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

sfp

arco

mp

2 3 4

5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

mp

p

f

5 6 *mp* 7 *p* 8 *f*

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Vln. 1 *sfp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *sfp* *pp*

Vla. *sfp* *pp*

Vcl. *mp*

D.B. *sfp* *pp*

9 10 11 12

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vcl. *mf* *f*

D.B. *f* *f*

13 14 15 16

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

17 18 19 20

22

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

p

mp

mp

p

mp

p

mp

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

30

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vcl. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

33 34 35 36

37

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f*

D.B. *f*

37 38 39 40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

41 42 43 44

47

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

45

46

47

48

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

49

50

51

52

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

53

54

55

f

p

ff

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