

RWS CONCERT STRINGS SERIES

Grade: 3

Conductor Score: RWS-2690-01

Chill Power

Dylan Fixmer

CONCERT STRINGS SERIES

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score.....	1
Violin 1.....	8
Violin 2.....	8
Viola.....	6
Cello.....	5
Double Bass.....	5
Drum Set (Optional).....	1
Claves (Optional).....	1
Piano (Optional).....	1

PROGRAM NOTE

All stressed out? You need **Chill Power!** This Latin-style piece for string orchestra, piano, drum set, and claves is written using a 2-3 Son clave, popular in Afro-Cuban music, and Aeolian modal harmonies. You'll hear the clave part played by the Claves and at the beginning by the Violins and Violas playing "col legno battuto" or hit with the wood of the bow. You'll also hear solos from students in the group. We hope you enjoy and feel the **Chill Power!**

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Chill Power is all about the groove. All accents on the "and" of beats should pop and move the groove forward without rushing. I've found it very helpful to have ensembles practice locking into the groove by vocalizing the syllable "ch" on the 8th note subdivision and accent the places in the measure where there are accents (e.g. m. 1 for Cellos and Bases would be - "ch" subdivision (8th note pulse) and accent "ch" on beats 1, 3 and the & of 4). Feeling the subdivision like this helps students lock into the groove and greatly improves ensemble playing.

A big hurdle is building students' confidence so that soloing off the page isn't a terrifying (and unpracticed) experience. To help with this, I've written out solos for the students to play first. From there, the students can be encouraged to adopt different facets of the written solos to their own improvising. You might encourage them to analyze the written solo for "riffs" (e.g. phrases or motifs that can be transposed and adapted to other parts of the solo) and write out their own solo using their analysis before giving them the option to improvise. When you give them improvisation as an option, it is important to give them the time and space to practice improvising in class! Adopting a "chaos improv time" (i.e., all string players improvise simultaneously) will take the spotlight off individual students and allow them to create in a space where no one is listening to anyone else. I encourage having the chords played (loudly) on the piano as accompaniment to chaos improv time, so the students can hear the chord changes (you might even have the students gather around the piano so they can hear it more clearly). Each rehearsal, after a few rounds of chaos improv, offers solo time to students who want to improvise or play a written solo so that they get lots of chances to play alone in front of the group.

The piece is written in a D Aeolian mode, and the chord progression for solos is VII - VI - VII. Soloing over this progression can simply be within the mode or can expand to include chromatic passing tones (specifically F \flat , B, A \flat , and E \flat and their enharmonic equivalents). The rhythmic accents on the "and" of the beat can be emphasized in improvised solos to stay within the style of the piece, or students can freely improvise rhythms (the first way emphasizes teaching the style, the second encourages creativity).

The Drum Set, Piano, and Clave parts add so much to the energy of this piece. They are written at a grade 3 level for players familiar with traditional jazz notation. Bringing in players from the school's jazz band or special guest artists from the community is a great way to create a musical collaboration for the string players.

Stay chill and please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Described by Conductor Lowell Graham as "Just an incredible composer" and "a very sincere creative artist" by composer Chen Yi, Colorado based composer, musician and educator, **Dylan Fixmer**, is a genuine and passionate artist whose works reflect his diverse music career. 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, culminating in projects centered on portraying the varieties of human experience. Recent works include commissions and premieres from Becky Kutz Osterberg, Ópera Guanajuato, the Greeley Philharmonic Orchestra, the Front Range Chamber Players, the University of Northern Colorado "Through Lines," and the Crested Butte Music Festival. Fixmer is currently the 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" (The Times of London) in 2022, and his "Concerto for Electric Cello" in partnership with North Range Behavioral Health in 2025. His "Four Portraits for Strings" and "Droid Funk" were selected as Editor's Choice by J.W. Pepper and his music has been featured on Colorado Public Radio Denver and CPR Classical, Radio Classique - Paris, The Times of London, and Le Figaro. As an active and dynamic performing artist, Fixmer currently performs with his band "Traditionish" and has appeared with artists including Glen Valez, Loire Cotler and Gao Hong. As an educator, Fixmer is currently Faculty of Music Composition at the University of Northern Colorado.

CHILL POWER

Conductor Score
RWS-2690-00

Dylan Fixmer
(ASCAP)

Latin Groove ♩ = 135
col legno battuto

Violin 1 *mf*

Violin 2 *mf*

Viola *mf*

Cello *mf*

Double Bass *mf*

Drum Set (Optional)
H.H. S.D. Cross Stick

Kick *mf*

Claves (Optional) *mf*

Piano (Optional) *mf*

1 2 3 4 5

9

Vln. 1 *f* *mf* *pp*

Vln. 2 *f* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *f* *mf* *pp*

Vel. *f* *f*

D. B. *f* *mf*

D. S. *f* *mf*

Clv. *f* *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf*

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15

Vln. 1 *mf* *sfp* *f* *pp* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *sfp* *f* *pp* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *sfp* *f* *pp* *mf* *f*

Vel. *f* *f*

D. B. *f*

D. S. *f*

Clv.

Pno. *f*

17

16 17 18 19 20

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vel. *f* *mp* *f*

D. B. *mf*

D. S. *mf*

Clv.

Pno. *mf*

Sheet music for measures 21-26. Instruments include Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D. B., D. S., Clv., and Pno. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the page.

Sheet music for measures 27-32. Instruments include Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D. B., D. S., Clv., and Pno. Dynamics range from *pp* to *mf*. A first ending bracket is present over measures 31-32. A large red watermark "Preview Requires Purchase" is overlaid on the page.

35

2.

Vln. 1 *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sfz* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sfz* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *mf* *sfz* *f*

Vcl. *f* *f* *mp* *f*

D. B. *f* *mf* *f*

D. S. *f* *mf*

Cr. H.H. *mf*

Clv. *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf*

33 34 35 36 37 38

Vln. 1 *mf* *pp* *mf* *ff*

Vln. 2 *mf* *pp* *mf* *ff*

Vla. *mf* *pp* *mf* *ff*

Vcl. *f* *ff*

D. B. *ff*

D. S. *ff* *f*

Clv. *ff*

Pno. *f*

39 40 41 42

43

ad lib (open for solos)
Dm

C

Bb

C

(4)

Score for measures 43-46. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D. B., D. S., Clv., Pno. Chords: Dm, C, Bb. Dynamics: mf. Includes a large red watermark: "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase".

43

44

45

46

Score for measures 47-50. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D. B., D. S., Clv., Pno. Chords: Dm, C, Bb. Dynamics: mf. Includes a large red watermark: "Preview Only - Legal Use Requires Purchase".

47

48

49

50

61

Score for measures 60-63. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D. B., D. S., Clv., Pno.

Measure 60: Vln. 1, 2, and Pno. are silent. Vla. and Vcl. play a rhythmic pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Measure 61: Vln. 1 and 2 enter with *mf* dynamics. Vla. and Vcl. continue their pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Measure 62: Vln. 1 and 2 continue. Vla. and Vcl. play a more complex pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Measure 63: Vln. 1 and 2 continue. Vla. and Vcl. play a more complex pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Score for measures 64-67. Instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vcl., D. B., D. S., Clv., Pno.

Measure 64: Vln. 1 and 2 play *f* dynamics. Vla. and Vcl. play a rhythmic pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Measure 65: Vln. 1 and 2 continue. Vla. and Vcl. play a more complex pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Measure 66: Vln. 1 and 2 continue. Vla. and Vcl. play a more complex pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Measure 67: Vln. 1 and 2 play *mp* dynamics. Vla. and Vcl. play a rhythmic pattern. D. B. and D. S. play chords. Clv. plays a simple accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 68-71, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vel., D. B., D. S., Clv., and Pno. The score includes dynamic markings (mp, p, f, ff) and a 'choke' instruction for the Double Bass. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Legat Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Aeolian Scale

Aeolian Scale for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The scale is written in 4/4 time and spans two measures. A large red watermark 'Preview Only Legat Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Suggested Solos

43

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

43 44 45 46 47 48

43b

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D. B.

49 50 43b 44b 45b

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D. B.

46b 47b 48b 49b 50b