



# TRAILBLAZE

Rick Hirsch

## Instrumentation

- 1 - Conductor's Full Score
- 8 - Violin 1
- 8 - Violin 2
- 5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 - Viola
- 5 - Violoncello
- 5 - Double Bass

Preview Only  
Legal Use Requires Purchase

FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts.  
As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.





## The Composer

Rick Hirsch (B.A. University of Massachusetts-Amherst; M.M. Northern Illinois University) is an award-winning composer and arranger who began his career as a personal music copyist for Bob Mintzer and Toshiko Akiyoshi. He has written music for jazz icons Yusef Lateef and Tito Puente, the Capitol Quartet, and the storied Penn State Blue Band, to name a few. He is in demand as a guest conductor for All-State and District Jazz Bands, and formerly served on the music faculty of Penn State University. He has been an invited speaker on improvisation pedagogy at the Midwest Clinic, JEN, and multiple state conferences. In 2017 Rick Hirsch's BIG OL' BAND released their acclaimed album, *Pocono Git-Down*, celebrating the vibrant under-the-radar jazz scenes beyond the big cities. Hirsch lives in State College, PA with his wife and daughters.

## About the Music

*Trailblaze* is a sweeping, driving work built on the syncopated phrase heard in the first two measures. You'll hear the main melody appear several times throughout, as it is structured in a modified rondo form. Every player in your orchestra will have something to sink his/her teeth into, as there are substantial melodic parts for every section, even the basses!

*Trailblaze* was composed as part of a seven-movement suite commissioned by the entire music department at Hollidaysburg Area High School (PA). It was premiered by the HAHS Chamber Strings directed by Stephanie Everett. The entire suite paid tribute to the rich history of this Central Pennsylvania town. *Trailblaze* aims to capture the excitement in the air as this tiny town was becoming a gateway to the western frontier through the Allegheny mountains.

Here are some suggestions to get the most out of your orchestra:

1. Perform this music with a driving sense of time and rhythm.
2. Bring out the accents, and be clear with articulations.
3. At measure 77 the cellos and basses should really dig in.
4. There are some chords with Major 7th / minor 2nd intervals (e.g. m. 52, m. 76). Take a little extra time to help your students hear the correct tuning and blend.
5. A rich rehearsal experience is to discuss and evaluate the song's structure with your students. Identify the initial theme as 'A' and ask your students to find and label the other themes. Then you can write an outline on the board that shows the sequence of themes (e.g. AA BB A'A' etc....)
6. Drop me a line if you have any questions. And have fun!

- Rick Hirsch

# TRAILBLAZE

Spirited (♩ = 180)

RICK HIRSCH  
(BMI)

Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola (Violin 3)  
Violoncello  
Double Bass

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

2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15



Hear and download this piece at [www.fjhmusic.com](http://www.fjhmusic.com)

Copyright © 2019 Frank J. Hackinson Publishing Co. (BMI).  
International Copyright Secured. Made in U.S.A. All Rights Reserved.

WARNING! The music, text, design, and graphics in this publication are protected by copyright law.  
Any duplication is an infringement of U.S. copyright law.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

16 17 18 19 20 21

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

22 23 24 25 26 27

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

28 29 30 31 32 33

37

Vln. 1 (L2) 4 2 3 1 4

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

34 35 36 37 38 III

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

39 40 41 42 43

45

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl. div.

D.B.

44 45 46 47 48

53

Vln. 1 (V)

Vln. 2 (V)

Vla. (V)

Vcl. IV mf

D.B.

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vln. 1 pizz. mp

Vln. 2 mp pizz.

Vla. mf

Vcl. -1 3 -1 2 4 1 3 -4 2 1

III IV III II

D.B.

55 56 57 58 59 60

61

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. V

Vcl. IV III IV pizz. III

D.B. II

61 62 63 64 65 66

69

arco

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

67 1 68 f 70 71

77

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

72 73 74 75 76 77

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

78 79 80 81 82 83

85

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

84 85 86 87 88 89

93

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

90 91 92 93 94 95

101

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

96 97 98 99 100 101



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

102 103 104 105 106 107

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 102 to 107. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 102 includes fingering 'L2' and '3'. Measure 104 includes fingering '3 H2 4 -2' and a first position 'I' marking. Measure 107 includes a 'V' marking.

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

108 109 110 111 112 113

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 108 to 113. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Measure 112 includes a '112' box, a 'div.' marking, and a 'b' marking. Measure 113 includes 'III', 'II III', and 'II' markings. The Double Bass staff shows fingering '4 0' and 'b-1 -4 1 -1 4'.

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

114 115 116 117 119

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 114 to 119. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Measure 114 includes 'III' and 'V 4' markings. Measure 115 includes 'II' and 'V 4' markings. Measure 116 includes 'I' and 'V' markings. Measure 117 includes 'V' and 'V' markings. Measure 119 includes '1/2', '2', 'I', and '4' markings.