



SHADOW DEFENDERS

Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Instrumentation

- 1 - Full Score
- 8 - Violin 1
- 8 - Violin 2
- 5 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
- 5 - Viola
- 5 - Violoncello
- 5 - Double Bass

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

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is an active conductor, composer, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and a Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family, nature, and traditions, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. She enjoys creating new music with the goal of being educationally sound, pleasing to audiences, and above all, fun for the players. She is passionate about sharing music with others and teaching students how to practice with purpose.

Mrs. LaBrie's compositions have received many accolades including frequent selection as J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice, as well as performances at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Directors Clinic and American String Teachers Association Conference. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40" for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players, and co-creator of "The Big IDEA" practice method. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam.

About the Music

From the first note of this thrilling piece, a sense of suspense, along with an intense desire to protect and avenge leaves you wondering what's looming around the corner. In *Shadow Defenders* you will find a hero seeking to balance the dark mysteries of the past, and the light that lays ahead.

This piece is all about balance. As musicians we often think of balance in terms of melodies versus harmonies, but in *Shadow Defenders* there is also a balance between dark and light, hard and soft, legato and marcato, etc. Throughout the piece, quarter notes should be played legato, while the eighth notes should be slightly detached with varying degrees of "on the string" vs "off the string" depending on the context. Accents should be treated with an intense forward trajectory rather than a surprise attack. Ensembles are encouraged to shape phrases to enhance the written dynamics and use variety in articulation to emphasize the story of the piece.

Notes from the Composer

As I was writing this piece I involved quite a few teachers, students, and friends to come up with the title, and in that process discovered that everyone perceived a different story. Some heard medieval castles and knights, others heard vikings, spies, pirates, or even electricity. You might encourage your students to come up with their own story of who the Shadow Defenders are and what they are defending, or come up with a completely different story and subtitle.

Personally, I like to dig a little deeper into the emotions of the piece...that even when we are in the depths of battle, such as a personal struggle or a trail we must overcome, there can always be an underlying sense of hope that we will conquer and make it through to the other side.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

SHADOW DEFENDERS

KATIE O'HARA LABRIE
(ASCAP)

Intense and driving (♩=120)

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola (Violin 3)

Violoncello

Double Bass

7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16

fp *f* *div.* *sim.*



Hear and download this piece at www.fjhmusic.com

Copyright © 2022 The FJH Music Company Inc. (ASCAP).
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.

21

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

17 18 19

mp *mf* *mp*

div. non div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

22 23 24 25 26

mf *mf* *mf*

sim.

29 Broadly

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

27 30 31

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

non div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

32 33 34 35 36

non div.

37 Mysteriously

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

37 *mp* 38 39 40 *mf*

U.H.

p *mp*

4

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

-1

45

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

42 46

f *mf*

f *mf*

f *mp* *mf*

f *mp* *mf*

f *mp* *mf*

non div.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

Soli V

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

47 48 50

f *ff*

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 47 to 50. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The music is in a minor key and 4/4 time. Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

53 Intense and driving

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

52 55

ff *f* *fp* *ff*

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 52 to 55. It features five staves. Measure 53 is marked "Intense and driving". The Viola and Violoncello parts are marked "arco". The Double Bass part has a "pizz." marking in measure 55. Dynamics include *ff*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

57

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

57 58

ff *f* *ff*

This block contains the third system of the musical score, covering measures 57 to 60. It features five staves. Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*. A large red watermark is overlaid on the page.

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

62 63 64 65 66

div.
arco
f

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

67 68 69 70 71

ff
-1 (V)

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

72 73 74 75 76

div.
2
fff