

String Orchestra

Grade 2.5 - 3

PALADIN'S OATH

SAGA OF RISING LEGENDS

Di3n Morales

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor Score
8 Violin 1
8 Violin 2
3 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 Viola
5 Cello
3 Cello 2 (D.B.)
5 Double Bass

Full Set \$60.00

Extra Score \$10.00

Extra Part \$5.00

DogSmile Music



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THE COMPOSER




Di3n Morales (b. 1987) (pronounced: Dee-oan) was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois, with his wife and two daughters. He began his orchestral studies as a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. Di3n received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music in 2010 and for his Master's degree which he completed in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010. Additionally, as of 2024, he is an adjunct professor of String Arranging and String Music Education at VanderCook College of Music and, in 2025, he became the String Editor of DogSmile Music LLC. His journey as

a composer and arranger started with the development of the "Composers of Color Project," through which he arranged for school orchestra programs, music written by minority composers. The publication of the works from this project led to opportunities to add his own musical ideas to the orchestral repertoire, including original educational compositions and music for various media projects. In addition to writing for his own students, Di3n has been commissioned by multiple schools and districts to compose pieces for special events and performances. Di3n has also had the honor of being a judge, guest conductor, and clinician across the United States, where he uses his experience as an educator to give students a positive and memorable experience. His full catalog, resume, and contact information can be found on his website, dionmorales.com.

THE WORK

A oath bound warrior of light, sworn to protect her kingdom no matter the cost. A Paladin is a natural leader, often found on the front lines when conflict arises. The music of *Paladin's Oath* mirrors both her quiet moments of meditation and the fierce intensity of battle. The opening theme represents the sacred vow that grants Serenya Dawnshield, our Paladin, her strength. This theme shifts and evolves throughout the piece, with every section of the orchestra sharing in her story.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- **Viola Soli** - The piece opens with a Viola section soli. If your Viola section requires support, cues have been included in both Violin parts. Add as many players as needed to balance the sound of the ensemble.
- **Open String Harmonics** - These harmonics are notated with a small circle above or below the notehead. To perform the harmonic, gently place a single finger (I recommend 3rd or 4th) just barely touching the string at the halfway point between the nut and the bridge. Proper hand shape and technique should be maintained in the left hand. This is a great opportunity to set students up for success with shifting. During the performance of harmonics the bow should stay light in order to help create a crystal-like sound texture.
-  **Patterns** - This rhythmic figure is used throughout this piece for each section as an introduction to moving 16th note patterns. Each one of these patterns were carefully composed to keep all three notes on a single string and are slurred, allowing for focus on the rhythm without having to worry about string crossings.

Paladin's Oath

Saga of Rising Legends

Dión Morales (ASCAP)

Reflective $\text{♩} = 90$

Violin 1 *pp* *mf* *mf*

Violin 2 *pp* *mf* *mf*

Viola *mf* *soli*

Cello *p* *div.*

Double Bass *p*

Vln. 1 *ppp*

Vln. 2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *soli div.*

Vc. *pp* *p*

D. B. *pp* *p*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



Paladin's Oath
Score

12

Vln. 1
p

Vln. 2
p

Vla.
p

Vc.

D. B.

12 13 14 15 16

17

Vln. 1
pp *mp*

Vln. 2
pp *mp*

Vla.
pp *mp*

Vc.

D. B.

pp

poco rit.

20 a tempo

17 18 19 20 21

Paladin's Oath
Score

molto rit.

Musical score for measures 22-26. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo marking is 'molto rit.'. The score shows a melodic line in the strings with various articulations like accents and slurs. Measure 23 has a 'V' above the first note, and measure 24 has a '2' above the first note. Measure 25 has an 'L2' above the first note. Measure 26 has a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 27-30. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo marking is 'molto rit.'. The score shows a powerful section starting at measure 28. Measure 28 is marked '28 Powerful' with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 125$. The dynamics are *fp* for the violins and *mf* for the violas, violas, and double basses. The score includes various articulations like accents, slurs, and 'at frog' markings. Measure 29 has a 'div.' marking above the first note. Measure 30 has a 'sim.' marking above the first note. Measure 30 also has an 'L2' marking above the first note.

Paladin's Oath
Score

Vln. 1 at balance point *mp*

Vln. 2 at balance point *mp*

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

31 32 33 34

Vln. 1 **36** *f marcato* L2 H2

Vln. 2 *f marcato*

Vla. *f marcato* L1

Vc. *f marcato*

D. B. *f marcato*

35 36 37

Paladin's Oath
Score

Musical score for measures 38-40. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Dynamic markings include accents (>) and hairpins (V). A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

38

39

40

Musical score for measures 41-43. The score is for five instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns. Measure 42 includes a second ending bracket labeled 'L2'. Dynamic markings include accents (>) and hairpins (V). A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

41

42

43

Paladin's Oath
Score

44

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

44 45 46 47

rit.

49 With a Heavy Heart ♩ = 115

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

Paladin's Oath
Score

53

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

f pesante

f pesante

f pesante

f pesante

f pesante

L2

H3

X1

52 53 54 55

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

accel.

56 57 58 59

Paladin's Oath
Score

Musical score for measures 67-69. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 67 and 68 contain melodic lines for all instruments. Measure 69 features a double bar line followed by a repeat sign (two parallel lines) for the strings, indicating a repeat of the previous material.

67

68

69

Musical score for measures 70-72. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 70 contains melodic lines for all instruments. Measure 71 contains melodic lines for all instruments. Measure 72 features a double bar line followed by a repeat sign (two parallel lines) for the strings, indicating a repeat of the previous material. Dynamic markings are present: *mp* for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, and *mf* for Vla., Vc., and D. B.

Paladin's Oath
Score

76 at frog > marcato *f*

Vln. 1 at tip

Vln. 2 at tip

Vla. *f* marcato

Vc. *f*

D. B. *f*

73 74 75 76

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D. B. *mp*

77 78 79 80

Paladin's Oath
Score

84

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

f pesante

f pesante

f pesante

f pesante

f pesante

81 82 83 84

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

p

p

p

p

Paladin's Oath

Score

III pos.

-2

4

I pos.

-2

92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

ff marcato

ff marcato

ff marcato

ff marcato

ff marcato

89

90

91

92

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

93

94

95

Paladin's Oath
Score

Musical score for measures 96-98, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The score is in G major and 4/4 time. Measure 96 shows the beginning of a phrase with various articulations. Measures 97 and 98 continue the phrase with dynamic markings and phrasing slurs.

96

97

98

Musical score for measures 99-101, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The score continues from the previous page. Measure 99 starts with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Measures 100 and 101 show further development of the musical material with various articulations and dynamics.

99

100

101