

String Orchestra

Grade 3

Talon and Tether

Lauren Spavelko

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 \$65.00

Extra Score \$10.00

Extra Part \$5.00

DogSmile Music



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THE COMPOSER



Lauren Spavelko (b. 1989) is a composer, educator, performer, and visual artist whose work invites deeper connection—both within ourselves and with one another. Her music draws on personal stories to reflect the range of human experience, inviting play, joy, resilience, and catharsis. She has received commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Johnstone Fund for New Music, the Central Ohio Symphony, and many individual artists and organizations. Her compositions have earned national and international recognition, including the Spoleto Festival's Young Composers Prize (Italy, *Baby Book*), the American Prize in Vocal Chamber

Music: The Charles Ives Award (*From Edna, with Love*), and the Ruth Anderson Commission Prize (IAWM, *Black Box 2.0*). She has also been a finalist for the NATS Art Song Composition Award and the American Prize in Orchestral Music. Her music has reached audiences in the U.S., Italy, Singapore, Vietnam, and Canada. Notable works include *Baby Book*, a song cycle exploring miscarriage, pregnancy, and motherhood; *Kéyah*, a symphonic collaboration with National Parks Eminent Photographer Frank Lee Ruggles; and *Grit*, a string orchestra piece frequently performed at honor and all-state festivals. An active educator, Spavelko operates her private studio, Musical Life, and teaches at Otterbein University. She holds an M.M. in Composition from the University of Louisville and a B.M. in Music Education from Ohio Wesleyan University, and studied composition with Steve Rouse, Clint Needham, and Jason Bahr. Lauren lives and creates in Columbus, Ohio. You can hear her laughing through the city while swing dancing, singing, fiddling, practicing yoga, and making a joyful noise with her circle. Learn more: www.LaurenSpavelko.com

THE WORK

Talon & Tether soars with the fierce energy of a falcon in flight. Driving rhythms, sharp contrasts, and sweeping melodies create a dramatic soundscape that captures the tug-of-war between instinct and control. With bold textures and a shifting pulse, this piece invites performers to unleash both power and finesse in equal measure.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- **Alternating Duple/Triple Feel** - The primary theme alternates between four measures in a triple meter (3/4) and four measures with an imposed duple feel. The duple feel is achieved by tying into a familiar 3/4 rhythm, offering students an accessible first encounter with meter layering. All sections perform the primary theme, including in a homorhythmic setting, which reinforces ensemble cohesion and rhythmic awareness.
- **Chromatic Inflections & Shifting Tonal Centers** - The piece begins in E minor, colored by chromatic inflections—particularly the interplay of D/D \sharp and F \sharp /F \natural . The music moves through several tonal centers (B \flat , D, and B), ultimately returning to E minor. This tonal variety encourages students to develop pitch flexibility and intonation awareness.
- **Exploration of Bowing Techniques** - Players will engage with a variety of articulations, including marcato strokes, legato slurs (some crossing strings), and open + fingered double stops. These varied techniques promote expressive bow control and stylistic contrast.

Talon & Tether

Lauren Spavelko

Driving ♩ = 160

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

f 1 2 3 4 5

9

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

mf
mp
mf
mf

6 7 8 9 10 11



Talon & Tether
Score

17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

12 13 14 15 16 17

sempre non-div.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

18 19 20 21 22 23

III pos. 0 -1

I pos. 0 -2

Talon & Tether
Score

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

24 25 26 27 28 29

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 24 through 29. It features five staves: 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. A circled measure number '25' is placed above the first measure of the Vln. 1 staff. The Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts consist of melodic lines with slurs and accents. The Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts provide a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes, often marked with accents (>). Measure numbers 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are printed below their respective measures.

33

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

30 31 32 33 34 35

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 30 through 35. It features the same five staves as the previous system. A circled measure number '33' is placed above the first measure of the Vln. 1 staff. The Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts continue with melodic lines, including a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) in measure 30. The Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts continue with their rhythmic accompaniment, also marked with *f* in measure 30. Measure numbers 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 are printed below their respective measures.

Talon & Tether
Score

Musical score for measures 36-41. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Fingerings are indicated above notes: 0, -1, 0, -2. A box containing the number 41 is placed above the final measure. Dynamics include *ff* and *ff*. A large watermark "for Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 42-48. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Dynamics include *ff*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. Performance instructions include "non-div." and "Ill pos." with fingerings -4 and -1. A large watermark "for Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Talon & Tether
Score

53 Lightly ♩ = 144

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

49 50 51 52 53 54

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

55 56 57 58 59 60

Talon & Tether
Score

for Preview Only

Vln. 1 *mf* *p* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *mp* *sim.*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp* *sim.*

D.B. *arco* *mp* *mf* *mp*

61 62 63 64 65 66

for Preview Only

poco rit. **70** Relaxed ♩ = 122

Vln. 1 L2 L1 L2 L4 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 L2 *mf* *f*

Vla. 4 L1 *mf* *f*

Vc. -4 -4 X1 *mf* *f*

D.B. *arco* III pos. 1 4 III 1/2 pos. -4 1 I pos. -2 *mf* *f*

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

78 Lightly $\text{♩} = 144$ Score

accel.

Vln. 1 *p* *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp* *p*

Vla. *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. *p* *mp*

D.B. *p* *mp*

Ill pos. -1 4

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93

Talon & Tether
Score

Musical score for measures 106-111. 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 music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A large watermark "for Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 112-117. 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 music continues with similar rhythmic patterns. In measure 115, the Vln. 1 part includes fingerings 0, -1, and -2. A large watermark "for Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Talon & Tether
Score

119

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

118 119 120 121 122 123

sim.

sim.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 118 through 123. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 119 is highlighted with a box containing the number '119'. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid across the score. The Viola and Double Bass parts include dynamic markings 'sim.' (simulacrum) in measures 120 and 121.

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

124 125 126 127 128 129

f

f

f

f

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 124 through 129. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). A double bar line is present at the beginning of measure 124. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid across the score. The Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Double Bass parts all feature a dynamic marking of 'f' (forte) at the start of measure 124.

Talon & Tether
Score

accel. 0 -1 0 -2

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

130 131 132 133 134

135 Soaring ♩ = 165

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vla.
Vc.
Vc.
D.B.

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

135 136 137 138 139

opt. 8vb

Talon & Tether
Score

143

Musical score for measures 140-144. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Violin A (Vla.), Violin B (Vla.), Violoncello 1 (Vc.), Violoncello 2 (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 143 is marked with a box containing the number 143 and a dynamic marking of *ff*. Measure 144 is marked with a dynamic marking of *ff*. The score features various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 145-149. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Violin A (Vla.), Violin B (Vla.), Violoncello 1 (Vc.), Violoncello 2 (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 147 is marked with a dynamic marking of *ff*. The score features various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.