

String Orchestra

Grade 3

# Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains

Jeff Lipscomb

## INSTRUMENTATION

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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  
1 Harp (optional)

Full Set \$65.00    Extra Score \$10.00    Extra Part \$5.00

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## THE COMPOSER

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Dr. Jeff Lipscomb currently teaches orchestra at four high schools in Kanawha County Schools, Charleston, West Virginia. These ensembles combine to form a larger group called Scorch, which has consistently earned superior ratings at adjudicated festivals. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's degree in Music Composition from Ohio University, as well as a Ph.D. in Music Composition with a minor in Orchestral Conducting from Louisiana State University. A passionate advocate for creativity and technology in music education, Jeff has presented on these topics at the West Virginia Music Educators Association conference. He is also the founder of Fire Hazard, an

ensemble that gives middle and high school students the opportunity to perform rock and pop music on electric string instruments. His teachers have included Mark Phillips, Dinos Constantinides, Samuel Adler, and John Beall. His music reflects an eclectic blend of influences, shaped by his broad interests and experiences.

## THE WORK

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The Appalachian Mountains stand as one of Earth's oldest witnesses – worn by time, shaped by rivers and wind, and etched with the stories of generations. *Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains* gives voice to that history, weaving a melody in the style of a traditional Appalachian ballad. Rooted in modal colors and layered with imitative entrances, the sound is hauntingly beautiful. This piece captures the spirit of mountains that have seen ages pass whispering their stories to those who will listen.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

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- **Legato** - Stylistically this piece is all about creating smooth connections between notes and phrases.
- **Ties** - Throughout the piece ties are used to extend both melodic and harmonic material. Be sure to play completely through the rhythms, maintaining the legato articulations.
- **Dissonant Harmony and Suspensions** - While playing through the piece you may notice a section creating dissonance that moves and resolve after the rest of the orchestra. This is intentional. This compositional technique creates unexpected tension and release. Be sure the resolution of each of these is clearly heard.

Score  
Grade 3  
Duration 3:32

# Ghosts of the Ancient

Jeff Lipscomb

## Mountains

Andante moderato  $\text{♩} = 96$

The musical score is written for a string quartet and an optional harp. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'Andante moderato' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Solo Violin, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Harp (Optional). The Solo Violin part begins with a 'solo' marking and a 3-measure rest. The Violin 1 and 2 parts have a 'section' marking and a 4-measure rest. The Harp part has a 'pp' marking. The second system continues the music, with measures 5 through 8. The Solo Violin part has a double bar line at the end of measure 4. The Violin 1 and 2 parts have a 'pp' marking in measure 8. The Harp part has a 'pp' marking in measure 8. The score includes various performance markings such as 'solo', 'section', 'mp', and 'pp'. There are also large numbers 3 and 4 indicating measure counts or rests.



Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

9 **tutti**  
pizz. L4  
*pp*

Vln 1

Vln 2 *pizz.*  
*pp*

Vla *mp* L1 L2

Vc. *p* 2

D. B. *p* 2

Hp *p*

9 10 11 12

Vln 1 L2 L3

Vln 2 L2

Vla

Vc. X1 X1

D. B. L1 -4 III 1/2 pos. 1

Hp

13 14 15 16

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

19

Vln 1 *div.* L1 *p*

Vln 2 *div.* L1 *arco mp* L2

Vla L1 L1 L2 L4

Vc. 1 *mp* III pos. -1 2 1 I pos. -2 IV pos. -2 X1 2

D. B. 2 *mp*

Hp *mp*

17 18 19 20

Vln 1 L4 L3 3

Vln 2 L1 L4 L4

Vla L1

Vc. X1 4 X1 I pos. -X1 2 4

D. B. 2 4

Hp

21 22 23 24

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

Musical score for measures 25-28. The score includes staves for Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. The key signature is B-flat major. Measure 25 features a dynamic marking of *p*. Measure 26 includes the instruction *arco*. Measure 27 includes the instruction *L2*. Measure 28 includes the instruction *I pos. -4*. The Hp part is written in a grand staff.

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score includes staves for Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. The key signature is B-flat major. Measure 29 features a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 30 includes the instruction *pizz.*. Measure 31 includes a dynamic marking of *p*. Measure 32 includes a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Hp part is written in a grand staff.

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

pizz.

Hp

33 34 35 36

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

37

*f*

*f*

*f* arco

*f* arco

-1

1

1

L2

Hp

37 38 39 40

*f*

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

3  
|| 1/2 pos  
-4 -1

-1 -1

This system contains measures 41 through 44. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is B-flat major. Measure 41 shows the start of a melodic line in the strings. Measure 42 continues this line. Measure 43 features a triplet of eighth notes in the double bass, with a fingering of -4 -1. Measure 44 concludes the phrase with a fermata over the final note.

41 42 43 44

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

L4

45 46 47 48

This system contains measures 45 through 48. It features six staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, and Harp. Measure 45 begins with a repeat sign. The harp part in measure 45 has a fingering of L4. The string parts continue their melodic lines. Measure 46 shows the continuation of the string lines. Measure 47 features a triplet of eighth notes in the double bass. Measure 48 concludes the system with a fermata over the final note.

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

Musical score for measures 49-52. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln 1), Violin 2 (Vln 2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D. B.), and Harp (Hp). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes with various articulations and dynamics.

49 50 51 52

Musical score for measures 53-56. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln 1), Violin 2 (Vln 2), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D. B.), and Harp (Hp). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The music continues with similar notation to the previous section, including a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a repeat sign at the beginning of measure 53.

53 54 55 56

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains

Score

Solo **59**

S Vln

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

*mf*

*p*

*pizz.*

L4

**57** **58** **59** **60**

S Vln

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc.

D. B.

Hp

0

61

62

63

64

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

68

Musical score for measures 65-68. The score includes parts for S Vln, Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. Measure 68 features a box with the number 68. Performance markings include *mf* arco and *mf*. A large watermark "for Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

69 70 71 72

Musical score for measures 69-72. The score includes parts for S Vln, Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. Performance markings include *ff*, *f*, *L4*, *IV pos. 4*, and *pizz.*. A large watermark "for Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains

Score

Musical score for measures 73-76. The score includes parts for S Vln, Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. Measure 73 features fingerings 2, 1, and L2. Measure 74 has a first position (I pos.) with a -2 fingering. Measure 75 has a first position (I pos.) with a 1 fingering. Measure 76 has a second position (II pos.) with a -4 fingering and fingerings 1 and 3. A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 77-80. Measure 77 is marked with a double bar line and a 4/4 time signature. Measure 78 is marked 'molto rit.'. Measure 79 is marked '80 a tempo'. Measure 80 features a 3/4 time signature and dynamics including 'tutti', 'p', 'mp', and 'arco'. A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

Musical score for measures 81-84. The score includes staves for Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. The key signature is B-flat major. Measure 81 features a *mp* dynamic. Measures 82-84 show a gradual increase in intensity, with the Vln 1 part holding a long note.

Musical score for measures 85-88. The score includes staves for Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. The key signature is B-flat major. Measure 85 features a *mp* dynamic. Measure 88 features a *ff* dynamic and a *div.* (divisi) instruction. The Vc. part includes fingering: *Ill pos.*, -2, 4, 3, 4. Measure 88 also includes a repeat sign.

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains

Score

III pos. -L2 4 -L3

Vln 1

Vln 2

Vla

Vc. -2 IV pos. -2 X1 4

D. B.

Hp

89 90 91 92

I pos. -2 II pos. -4 X1 2

Vln 1 *p* *pp*

Vln 2 *mp* *pp*

Vla *mp* *pp*

Vc. *mp* *pp*

D. B. *mp*

Hp *mp* *p*

93 94 95 96

Score

II pos. -4 3 98 V 2 I pos. -2

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

97 98 99

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

Ghosts of the Ancient Mountains  
Score

poco rit.

Score for measures 103-105. The score includes parts for Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. The key signature is B-flat major. The tempo marking is 'poco rit.'. The strings play sustained notes, and the harp provides accompaniment. A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the page.

103 104 105

Score for measures 106-109. The score includes parts for Vln 1, Vln 2, Vla, Vc., D. B., and Hp. The key signature is B-flat major. The tempo marking is 'poco rit.'. The strings play sustained notes with dynamic markings *sfz* and *pp*. The harp provides accompaniment with dynamic marking *p*. A large watermark 'for Preview Only' is overlaid on the page.