

String Orchestra

Grade 5

# Concert Suite for Strings

*from the Motion Picture "The American Question"*

**Nicolas Repetto**

## INSTRUMENTATION

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1 Conductor Score

8 Violin 1

8 Violin 2

5 Viola

5 Cello

5 Double Bass

1 Drum Set

1 Bongo drums

Full Set \$100.00

Extra Score \$25.00

Extra Part \$10.00

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## THE COMPOSER

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Nicolás Repetto (b. 1979) is an Argentinian-American television, film, and concert composer who has uplifted many projects with his diverse musical voice. He recently won a Telly for his score to Empire Queen: The Golden Age of Magic now playing on Amazon Prime. He also composed and conducted his original music performed by a 50-piece orchestra at Walt Disney Concert Hall for the unveiling of two new Omega watches, collectively worth \$1 Million Dollars. Repetto also composed an original score for the feature documentary, A Run for More, which was broadcast on PBS. A Run for More is directed by Pulitzer-Prize winning director Ray Whitehouse; the film chronicles the story of Frankie Gonzalez-Wolfe, a transgender woman running for city council in San Antonio, TX. Nicolás has also composed an original score for director James Kicklighter's documentary feature film, The Sound of Identity, which chronicles the life of transgender opera singer, Lucia Lucas.

Nicolás's music is a blend of Argentinian/Latin/world influences, classical training, electronics sensibility, and modern film and television soundtracks. His scores include the multi-year feature documentary, The American Question by director James Kicklighter. Other past projects include the Telly-award winning score to Empire Queen: The Golden Age of Magic directed by Chris Dane Owens, based on his YouTube video which garnered over a million views. Hollywood Music In Media Award-nominated score to Ode In Blood and The Plural of Blood, Debris (Escombros) which premiered at the Los Angeles Film Festival/Film Independent and the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival. Also, Nicolás played violin on the score to the 2016 Oscar-winning documentary, O.J.: Made In America as well as the new Deadmau5 album Live at the Wiltern with Deadmau5. In addition, he has had music placements on TLC, HBO, and in various advertising campaigns. His concert music has been performed throughout the United States and Europe. He is published by Carl Fischer, Wingert-Jones Publications, RSM Music, and through his own music publishing company, DogSmile Music LLC. Nicolás holds active memberships in the Television Academy (Emmys®), the Society of Composers and Lyricists, the Composers Diversity Collective, and he is an alum of the ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop. He resides in Las Vegas with his husband and their two dogs, Benji and Gypsy.

## THE WORK

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I originally composed an original score for the political documentary \*The American Question\*, directed by James Kicklighter, which features approximately 49 minutes of music. My intention was to distill this extensive score into a manageable concert suite of about 7 minutes, incorporating the main theme and highlighting significant cues from the film. This 2024 documentary delves into the root causes of severe political polarization and societal distrust in the United States. It follows political analyst Guy Seemann on an eight-year journey across swing states, investigating the fractures in national identity and exploring how Americans can rediscover unifying values.

The suite is divided into four movements:

- **I. Empires** – This movement begins with a mysterious tone, taking the listener on a journey through time to showcase the emergence of empires worldwide.
- **II. Main Title** – The Main Title coincides with the film's title card and is where the primary theme is introduced. *The American Question* motif transforms into a bombastic moment, incorporating a drum set alongside string riffs to convey the energy of the chaos dividing our nation. It concludes on a V chord, symbolizing tension and unrest.
- **III. A Decline of Community** – This section derives from a specific cue in the film, illustrating how community involvement and interest in the "common good" have diminished. The music is tense and concludes on an uneasy note.
- **IV. Opportunity** – The final movement offers a sense of hope, emphasizing that we have the potential for change.

In creating this concert suite, I aimed to retain the same propulsive and thematic material, this time arranged for strings. The "TAQ" motif, a rising fourth leading to a second, serves as a musical inquiry, asking, "Can we come together as a nation?" I hope you find joy in performing this suite as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of our nation.

Don't forget to watch \*The American Question\* on YouTube, Tubi, Amazon Prime, and various other digital streaming platforms.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

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- Movement I - balance the orchestra so the solo violin can shine.
- Movement II - the drum set is needed to get energy and propulsion, make sure to balance all parts as needed.
- Movement III - the dynamics are super important here as well as the tense energy. Exaggerate all the crescendi/decrescendi.
- Movement IV - We end with a hopeful message, so keep this whole section very expressive.

Score  
Grade 5  
Dur. 7'11"

# Concert Suite for Strings

From the Motion Picture "The American Question"

Nicolas Repetto (ASCAP)

## I. Empires

Misterioso  $\text{♩} = 72$

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

spicc.

*p*

1 2 3 4

5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

*mf* espress.

Vc.

D.B.

5 6 7 8



Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

9 10 11 12

*p*

*mp*

*mp*

for Preview Only

15 Violin Solo

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

13 14 15 16

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*f* *leggiero*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

3

S. Vln.

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

17 18 19 20

23

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

for Preview Only

25 26 27 28

31

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

29 30 31 32

ff

f

f

f

div.

f

mf espress.

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

5

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

33 34 35 36

39

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*p*

*p*

*p*

spicc.  
*mp*

*mp* espress.

*p*

37 38 39 40

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

S. Vln. *mf* *mp* *f*

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *mp* *mf*

41 42 43 44 47

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. *mf*

D.B.

45 46 47 48

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

7

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

II. Main Titles

49 50 51 52

55

S. Vln.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

brushed stroke

*p*

brushed stroke

*p*

53 54 55 56

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

Violin Solo

S. Vln. *mp* espress. *f*

S. Vc. Cello Solo *mp* espress. *f*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

57 58 59 60

S. Vln.

S. Vc. *p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

D.B.

61 62 63 64

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"

9

Score

65

S. Vln.

S. Vc.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

unis.

*p*

*mp* *leggiero*

*p*

65 66 67

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp* *leggiero*

*mf* *mp*

68 69 70

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

71

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc.

D.B.

3  
4

71 72 73

76

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *mf* *f marc.*

D.B. *mf* *f marc.*

Dr. St. *f*

DRUM SET

74 75 76

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

11

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

77 78 79

80

Vln. 1  
espress.

Vln. 2  
espress.

Vla.  
espress.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

80 81 82

fill

p

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

for Preview Only

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

D.B. *mf* *f*

Dr. St. *mf* *f*

83 84 85

87

Vln. 1 sub. *mp*

Vln. 2 sub. *mp*

Vla. sub. *mp*

Vc. sub. *mp*

D.B. sub. *mp*

Dr. St. sub. *mp*

86 87 88

DSMS037

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

13

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

89

90

91

div.

94

*mf*

*f* appassionato

*mf*

*f* appassionato

*mf*

*f* appassionato

*mf*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

92

93

94

DSMS037

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

95 96 97

**molto *ff***

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

98 99 100

DSMS037

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

15

[illegible]

for Preview Only

101 102 103

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

The musical score for measures 101-103 features the following parts:

- Vln. 1:** Treble clef, playing a continuous sixteenth-note pattern.
- Vln. 2:** Treble clef, playing a continuous sixteenth-note pattern.
- Vla.:** Alto clef, with rests in all three measures.
- Vc.:** Bass clef, playing a sustained note (G2) in measure 101, and a sustained note (G2) with a fermata in measures 102 and 103.
- D.B.:** Bass clef, playing a sustained note (G2) in measure 101, and a sustained note (G2) with a fermata in measures 102 and 103.
- Dr. St.:** Drum set, playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.  
pesante

Vc.  
pesante

D.B.  
pesante

Dr. St.

107 108 109

110

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Dr. St.

110 111

DSMS037

## 17

[illegible]

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Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

119 **Molto agitato**

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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Bgo. Dr.

BONGOS

117 118 119

120 121 122

DSMS037

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

19

123

Vln. 1 *mf* *espress.* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

Bgo. Dr.

123 124 125

127

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* *mf*

D.B.

Bgo. Dr.

126 127 128

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

131

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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Bgo. Dr.

div.

*f*

*f*

129

130

131

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Bgo. Dr.

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*mp*

*f*

*p*

*mf*

132

133

134

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

21

for Preview Only

Vln. 1 *mf* *rit.* *p* //

Vln. 2 *mp* *p* //

Vla. *mf* //

Vc. *mp* *p* //

D.B. *diminuendo* *p* //

Bgo. Dr. *diminuendo* *p* //

135 136 137

**IV. Opportunity**  
**138 Adagietto** ♩ = 74

Vln. 1 *p espress.*

Vln. 2 *p espress.*

Vla. *p espress.*

Vc. *p espress.*

D.B. *p espress.*

138 139 140

Concert Suite for Strings  
 From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
 Score

Musical score for measures 141-144. 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 has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 5/4. The measures are numbered 141, 142, 143, and 144 at the bottom.

Musical score for measures 145-148. 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 has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 5/4. The measures are numbered 145, 146, 147, and 148 at the bottom. A large double bar line is present at the end of measure 147, with a '5' above it and a '4' below it, indicating a change in the time signature to 5/4 for the following measure (148).

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

23

rit. a tempo

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

149

150

151

152

=

155

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

153

154

155

156

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

accelerando

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

157 158 159 160

**161** **Piu Mosso** ♩ = 82

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

161 162 163 164

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

25

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf* espress.

*mp*

*mf* espress.

165

166

167

168

for Preview Only

169

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf* espress.

*mf*

*mf*

169

170

171

172

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*p*

*mp* *espress.*

173 174 175 176

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mp*

*mf* *espress.*

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

177 178 179 180

Concert Suite for Strings  
From the Motion Picture "The American Question"  
Score

27

for Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*p* *mp* *p*

181 182 183

=

rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*p* *mf* *pp*

184 185 186