



Quicksand

PERRY HOLBROOK

Instrumentation

Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5

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About the Composer



Perry Holbrook has served as Director of Orchestras at Walton High School since 2001. Under his leadership, the program has grown from 130 to over 380 string students. His ensembles have been invited to perform eight times at The Midwest Clinic, three times at the ASTA National Conference, and eight times at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. Internationally, his groups have completed four European concert tours.

A sought-after guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Holbrook has led the South Carolina and Alabama All-State Orchestras and conducted at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. He has worked with honor orchestras in Texas, South Carolina, Kansas, Tennessee, and Georgia, and served as a clinician for the 2021 ASTA National Orchestra Festival. His presentations have been featured at The Midwest Clinic, ASTA National Conference, and the Georgia and Texas Music Educators Conventions.

Dr. Holbrook holds a DMA from the University of Minnesota, an MM from Arizona State University, and a BM from Wichita State University. He earned his teaching credentials at the University of Georgia.

Quicksand

They say you should face your fears, but for a Gen X'ie, nothing loomed larger than the ever-present threat of quicksand. Forget ghosts or monsters, quicksand was the true menace lurking in every movie and cartoon. We were both shaped and slightly traumatized by scenes in "The Princess Bride," "The NeverEnding Story," "Gilligan's Island," "The Dukes of Hazzard," "The Six Million Dollar Man," "MacGyver," "Land of the Lost," "Batman," and every Saturday morning cartoon that thought sinking into a muddy abyss was appropriate children's programming.

Musically, "Quicksand" is a dynamic and well-crafted work, offering rich harmonies and strong technical opportunities. Divisi Cello writing adds depth, while independent bass lines provide a rare and rewarding spotlight. The piece encourages precision, ensemble awareness, and expressive playing across all sections. The middle section nods subtly to classic 70s and 80s quicksand tropes. Its tremolo motif creates a sense of sinking, evoking the tension and atmosphere of those memorable scenes.

"Quicksand" was commissioned by Michael Tompkins, Paul O'Keefe, and the Hightower Trail Eighth Grade Orchestra for their performance at the 2025 Georgia Music Educators Association Convention.



pholbrook40



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Quicksand

PERRY HOLBROOK
(ASCAP)

Dolce e teneramente ♩ = 84

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Bass

p *mp*

1 2 3 5

accel. 10 *Allegro ma non troppo* ♩ = 120

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

mf *pp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

6 8 9 10 11

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

p *p* *p*

12 13 14 15

p

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18

Div.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

16 17 18 19

Unis.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

20 21 22 23

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

p

p

p

p

p

24 25 26 27

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

p

p

Pizz.

Arco

mp

28 29 30 31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

f

f

f

f

f

Div.

Div.

Unis.

32 33 34 35

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

f

f

f

f

f

Div.

Div.

Unis.

36 37 38 39

40

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Unis.

mp

p

p

40 41 42 43

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mp

mp

mp

44 45 46 47

48

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mf

mf

mf

mf

48 49 50 51

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

f

52 53 54 55

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

ff

56 57 58 59 60

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

p

61 62 63 64 65

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

66 67 68 69

f *p*

V

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

70 71 72 73

Div.

Div.

Unis.

f *f* *f* *f*

V

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

74 75 76 77 78

Unis.

Div.

Div.

p *p* *p* *p* *f* *mf* *mf* *mf*

V

Unis.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

79 80 81 82 83

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

84 85 86 87

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p

p

Pizz.

Arco

mp

88

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

88 89 90 91

f

f

f

Div.

Div.

Unis.

92

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Bass *f*

Div.

Div.

Unis.

92 93 94 95

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Bass *ff*

Unis.

Unis.

96 97 98 99 100

103

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Bass *f*

Unis.

Unis.

Div.

101 102 103 104

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

105 106 107

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Div.

108 109 110 111 112

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Div.

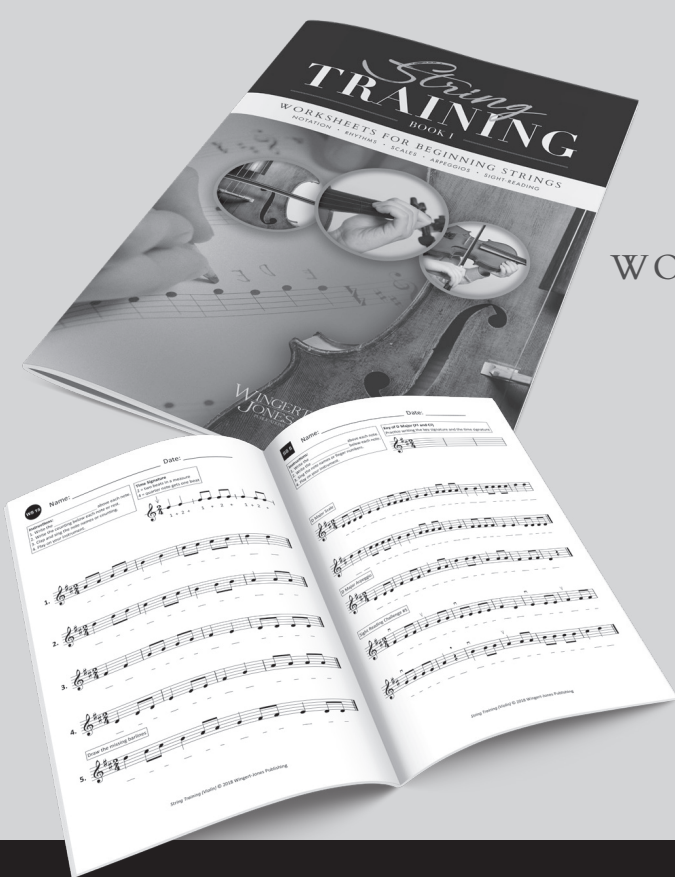
Unis.

ff

ff

ff

113 114 115 116 117



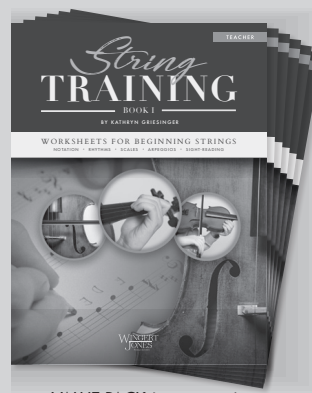
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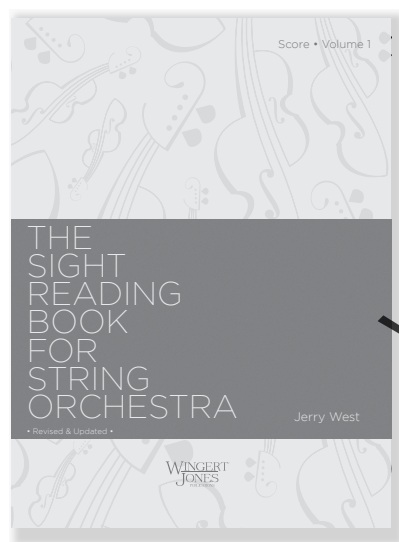
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