



Raise the Curtain

STEVE PARSONS

Instrumentation

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

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About the Arranger



Steve is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director. His composing credits include: Evensong (for Choir and Orchestra,) Seascapes (RBC Publications,) Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera (Translations Art Gallery,) Visions (an oratorio based on the book of Revelation,) Rise City Silent, Sing!, College Slam (video game, Akklaim,) and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral ensembles. An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals.

Steve's musical adaptation of A Christmas Carol is published by Steele Spring Stage Rights in Los Angeles and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (14 seasons,) New York (Off-Off Broadway,) Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City.) As an orchestrator, he has arranged the Grateful Dead musical Cumberland Blues (NYMF, NY,) Life Could Be A Dream (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA,) It's A Wonderful Life (Regional,) and Footloose (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library.) His other credits include: Nunsense and Nunsense A-Men! (music preparation, NY,) The Tick (member of the "Tickestra," FOX,) and Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz (consultant and contributor, Applause Books.)

Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University.

Raise the Curtain

"Places, please."

I've spent the majority of my professional adult life in the Orchestra pit, baton in hand (or hands on Keys), waiting for the curtain to lift and begin a new production. No matter the number of times you experience it, there's always a palpable sense of excitement and energy in the air from both the audience and performers that makes the hard work worthwhile and creatively satisfying. "Raise the Curtain" is my musical tribute to those thrilling moments when everyone is anticipating the downbeat and getting ready to take a new theatrical rollercoaster ride!

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Like many musical overtures of the past, this piece should be played with a huge amount of drive, so don't be afraid to "dig in" to the phrases with a good deal of attack. Even the long, soaring lines of the main theme should feel energized and full of motion. Similarly, the low Strings provide a lot of the pseudo-rhythm section engine, so make sure they lock in with each other using the eighth-note syncopated pulse.

Most all...have a great time!



steveparsonsccomposer



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Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

For Mary & Abigail Bontrager

STEVE PARSONS
(ASCAP)

With Energy! ♩ = 150

The image displays two systems of musical notation for a string ensemble. The first system includes staves for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano (Optional). The second system continues with Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Piano. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Dynamic markings include fortissimo (f), fortissimissimo (fp), mezzo-forte (mf), and piano (p). Performance instructions like 'Div.' (divisi) and 'Pizz.' (pizzicato) are present. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'For Preview Only' is superimposed over the center of the page.

SOW2604FS

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

14 16 17

Div. Pizz. Arco

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

18 19 20 21 22

Pizz. Arco

mf

Score for measures 23 to 27. Instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 23: Vln. I (f), Vln. II, Vla. (f), Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 24: Vln. I (f), Vln. II, Vla. (f), Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 25: Vln. I (f), Vln. II, Vla. (f), Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 26: Vln. I (f), Vln. II, Vla. (f), Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 27: Vln. I (f), Vln. II, Vla. (f), Cello, Bass, Pno.

Score for measures 28 to 31. Instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 28: Vln. I (mf), Vln. II (mf), Vla. (mf), Cello (mf), Bass (mf), Pno. (mf).

Measure 29: Vln. I (mf), Vln. II (mf), Vla. (Div. mf), Cello (mf), Bass (mf), Pno. (mf).

Measure 30: Vln. I (mf), Vln. II (mf), Vla. (mf), Cello (mf), Bass (mf), Pno. (mf).

Measure 31: Vln. I (mf), Vln. II (mf), Vla. (Pizz. mf), Cello (mf), Bass (mf), Pno. (mf).

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

32 33 34 35

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

36 37 38 39

Score for measures 40-43, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The score includes dynamic markings such as *Pizz.*, *Arco*, and *mp*.

Score for measures 44-47, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *mp*. Measure 45 is marked with a box containing the number 45.

Score for measures 48-51. Instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 48: Vln. I (*mf*), Vln. II (*mf*), Vla. (*mf*), Cello (*mf*), Bass (*mf*), Pno. (*mf*). Dynamics: *mf*.

Measure 49: Vln. I (*mf*), Vln. II (*mf*), Vla. (*mf*), Cello (*mf*), Bass (*mf*), Pno. (*mf*). Dynamics: *mf*.

Measure 50: Vln. I (*fp*), Vln. II (*mf*), Vla. (*mf*), Cello (*fp*), Bass (*mf*), Pno. (*mf*). Dynamics: *fp*.

Measure 51: Vln. I (*rit.*), Vln. II (*mp* Pizz.), Vla. (*mp* Pizz.), Cello (*mp* Pizz.), Bass (*Arco*), Pno. (*mp*). Dynamics: *mp*, *Arco*, *Pizz.*, *rit.*

Score for measures 52-55. Instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 52: Vln. I (*mf*), Vln. II (*mf*), Vla. (*mf*), Cello (*mf*), Bass (*mf*), Pno. (*mf*). Dynamics: *mf*. Markings: *Arco*.

Measure 53: Vln. I (*mf*), Vln. II (*mf*), Vla. (*mf*), Cello (*mf*), Bass (*mf*), Pno. (*mf*). Dynamics: *mf*. Markings: *Arco*.

Measure 54: Vln. I (*f*), Vln. II (*f*), Vla. (*f*), Cello (*f*), Bass (*f*), Pno. (*f*). Dynamics: *f*. Markings: *Div.*, *tempo*.

Measure 55: Vln. I (*f*), Vln. II (*f*), Vla. (*f*), Cello (*f*), Bass (*f*), Pno. (*f*). Dynamics: *f*. Markings: *Pizz.*.

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

Arco

Div.

Pizz.

56 57 58 59

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

60 61 62 63

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

3/4

68 69 70 71

