

Grade

3½

Music for String Orchestra

Frost on the Plow

Samuel Gelfer

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INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5
Acoustic Guitar	1

Performance Notes

This energetic composition, written in the style of traditional fiddle-tunes, gradually modulates from B minor to D Major. Players will encounter authentic fiddle techniques such as shuffle-bowing, chops, and double-stops at a brisk tempo. The chop is accomplished by dropping the bow firmly on the D and A strings at the frog, sinking and stopping with slight motion toward the scroll. Players should straighten their fingers on the frog and the bow hair should be tilted toward the bridge when performing this technique. A syncopated bass accompaniment and relentless pace depict a stormy winter season, melting into spring. Each section is given interesting melodic and accompaniment lines, with exciting accented rhythms that require all players to match bow placement, internalize a common tempo, and listen across the ensemble for a precise, focused sound.

About the Composer

Samuel Gelfer is a performer, educator, clinician, conductor, composer and arranger from Brookhaven Hamlet on Long Island. He is a proud alum of SUNY Fredonia, where he studied music education and double bass and Stony Brook University, where he earned his Masters in music.

Sam teaches orchestra at multiple levels in the Farmingdale School District while maintaining a busy performance schedule, appearing off Broadway and touring with Lonesome Traveler, a show that tells the story of American folk music from the Dust Bowl to the civil rights movement and beyond.

Memorable collaborations include the distinct privilege of working with Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, and George Grove, 40 year-long member of the Kingston Trio. Sam can also be found performing with The New Students, a modern Americana folk band based in New York City.

Frost on the Plow

SAMUEL GELFER

Fast ♩ = 88

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Acoustic Guitar*
(Optional)

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score includes staves for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Acoustic Guitar. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Fast' with a quarter note equal to 88 beats per minute. The Violin I part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The Bass part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking. The Acoustic Guitar part is optional and shows a simple bass line. A large red watermark 'For promotional use only' is overlaid on the score.

1 2 3 4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score includes staves for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, and Acoustic Guitar. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The Violin I part continues with the rhythmic pattern from the previous section. The Violin II part has a rest in measures 5-7 and enters in measure 8 with a 'mf' dynamic and a '(tip)' marking. The Viola and Cello parts also have rests in measures 5-7 and enter in measure 8 with a 'mf' dynamic. The Bass part continues with the rhythmic pattern. The Acoustic Guitar part is optional and shows a simple bass line. A large red watermark 'For promotional use only' is overlaid on the score.

5 6 7 8

*If Capoead, play down a whole step (Bm = Am, etc.)

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

mf

Bm Bm D D

9 10 11 12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

f

f

f

Em Em G A

13 14 15 16

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

mp

mf

Bm Strum basic pattern

F#

17 18 19 20

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

f

f

Bm G A Bm A

21 22 23 24

25

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

mp

mf

Bm

F#

25 26 27 28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

f

Bm

G

A

Bm

A

29 30 31 32

33

Vln. I *mp* *f*

Vln. II *mp* *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Bass

Ac. Gtr. D A G D A F# *f*

33 34 35 36

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *sfz* *f*

Cello *sfz* *f*

Bass

Ac. Gtr. G D Em Bm G A Bm *sfz* *f* A

37 38 39 40

41

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

D A G D A F#

41 42 43 44

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

G D Em Bm G A Bm A

45 46 47 48

ff

49

(play cues if needed)

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Bass *f* arco

Ac. Gtr. *f* Bm A

49 50 51 52



Vln. I

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr. *mf* Em G A

53 54 55 56

57

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello *fp*

Bass *fp*

Ac. Gtr. *fp*
Bm

57 58 59 60

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Bass *ff*

Ac. Gtr. *ff*
G A

61 62 63 64

65

Vln. I *f* 4 3 3

Vln. II *f* 3

Vla. *f* 3 3 3

Cello *f*

Bass *f* V

Ac. Gtr. *f* D Bm G A 3 3 3 3 65 66 67 68



Vln. I 4 3 3

Vln. II

Vla. 3 3 3

Cello

Bass *p.v.* *ff* *f*

Ac. Gtr. D Bm G A D 3 3 3 3 69 70 71 72

73

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *f*

Bass *pizz.*

Ac. Gtr. D Bm G A

73 74 75 76

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr. D Bm G A D

77 78 79 80

81

Vln. I chop

Vln. II *mp* chop

Vla. *mp* chop

Cello *f* arco

Bass *f*

Ac. Gtr. chop

mp 81 82 83 84



Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello 3

Bass 3

Ac. Gtr.

85 86 87 88

89

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Bass *mf*

Ac. Gtr. *mf*

D G Bm A

89 90 91 92

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f* *mf* *f*

Cello *f* *mf* *f*

Bass *f* *mf* *f*

Ac. Gtr. *f*

Em G D A 3 D A

93 94 95 96

97

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

pizz.

D

A

97 98 99 100



Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Ac. Gtr.

Bm

G

A

mf

101 102 103 104

105

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II

Vla. *fp*

Cello *fp*

Bass

Ac. Gtr. *mf* Bm A

105 106 107 108

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Bass *ff*

Ac. Gtr. *ff* D G A D D

109 110 111 112 113 114

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