



Cook Strait Crossing

LAURA ESTES

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	3
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5
Piano (Rehearsal Only)	1



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Laura Estes taught middle and high school band for 36 years before retiring in 2018 from the Cobb County School System (GA). Upon retirement she began composing, and her first piece “Kvetchers (Surprises in Controversial Time)” was accepted for publication in Excelcia’s 2020 catalog. In addition to her music being performed at The MidWest Clinic in Chicago, Estes’ concert works have been selected for the J.W. Pepper Editor’s Choice List as well as being named Five Star Features from Stanton’s Sheet Music. With her composition “Walking on Air,” Estes was named the winner of the 2021 Women Band Directors International (WBDI) Composition Competition.

Throughout Estes’ career, her bands consistently earned Superior ratings at performance evaluations, and she was awarded the National Band Association’s Citation of Excellence as her middle and high school bands were selected to perform at clinics in the Southeast.

A South Florida native, Estes earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education from The Florida State University and her Master’s Degree in Music Education from Georgia State University. In addition to composing, Estes continues to serve as an adjudicator, guest conductor, clinician, and mentor. Estes and her husband Gil reside in Marietta, GA, and have 5 amazing children: Adrienne, April, Eric, Daniel, and Michelle.

COOK STRAIT CROSSING

Throughout history, Cook Strait has been a watery grave for many vessels. Separating the North and South Islands of New Zealand and connecting the Tasman Sea to the South Pacific, Cook Strait is considered one of the most treacherous and unpredictable bodies of water in the world. With unusual tidal currents and frequent storms, navigation on Cook Strait can prove fatally challenging.

April 10, 1968 will never be forgotten. On its way to the capital city of Wellington with 734 people on board, the passenger ferry Wahine entered Cook Strait and collided with the worst storm ever recorded in New Zealand history. Almost simultaneously, Wahine’s radar system failed and a massive wave slammed into the ship, causing the ferry to drift. With zero visibility, the Wahine ran aground onto Barrett Reef, ripping off a propeller and forcing the engines to stop. Even with anchors dropped, the Wahine took on water and began to list. The captain gave the call to abandon ship. In stormy seas and within sight of the shore, the Wahine capsized and broke apart in shallow water. Due to the heroism of the crew and the local townspeople, most passengers survived.

Traveling on Cook Strait is both dangerous and thrilling, and the music begins with a meditative plea for safe travels before embarking on an exciting journey. There is something special for each instrument section in this piece as they conjure up the image of the Wahine’s final voyage on Cook Strait.

Cook Strait Crossing is a story of hope, written as a tribute to the 53 souls who died, to those who survived, and to those who risked their lives to save others. I hope you enjoy playing this piece as much as I enjoyed composing it.

THANK YOU

Being able to hear a piece live and receive instant feedback during the compositional process is a special treat. For providing this opportunity I give my heartfelt thanks to the students of the Melbourne High School Chamber Orchestra (FL), director Michelle Eggen, and the students of the Walton High School Sinfonia Orchestra (GA), directors Sara Grimes and Dr. Perry Holbrook.



excelciamusic.com/laura-estes



[excelciamusicpublishing](https://www.youtube.com/excelciamusicpublishing)

Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Expressive ♩ = 66

rit.

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Piano

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 Lively ♩ = 132

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

27

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

35

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

45

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

mp lightly

p legato

p legato

p legato

mf

mf

mf

mf

53

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

p *f* *sub. p* *f* *f*

p *f* *sub. p* *f* *f*

p *f* *sub. p* *f* *f*

f *f* *f*

f *f* *f*

p *f* *p* *f* *f*

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

61

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

f *f* *f* *f* *f*

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

73

Score for measures 66 to 73, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *f* (forte).

Measures 66-73 show a complex orchestral texture with rapid sixteenth-note passages in the strings and piano. The first violin and second violin parts feature a melodic line with accents. The viola part has a sustained note with a crescendo. The cello and bass parts have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The piano part has a complex harmonic structure with many chords.

81

Score for measures 74 to 81, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The music continues in G major and 4/4 time. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *ff* (fortissimo).

Measures 74-81 show a continuation of the complex orchestral texture. The first violin and second violin parts have a melodic line with accents. The viola part has a sustained note with a crescendo. The cello and bass parts have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The piano part has a complex harmonic structure with many chords.

86 A Tempo

82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

f cresc.

90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff