

Ride of the Dullahan

For Grade 2.5
or Multi-Level String Orchestra (Grades 2.5 • 1 • 0.5)
by Declan Postlethwaite

Instrumentation

Part A	Part B	Part C
Grade 2.5	Grade 1	Grade 0.5
8 - Violin A1	4 - Violin B1	4 - Violin C
8 - Violin A2	4 - Violin B2	3 - Viola C
5 - Viola A	3 - Viola B	2 - Cello C
5 - Cello A	2 - Cello B	2 - Bass C
5 - Bass A	2 - Bass B	

Note from the Editor:

This spooky composition works as a stand alone piece for Grade 2.5 String Orchestra, or as a multi-level piece combining the A parts, with the B parts (Grade 1) and/or the C parts (Grade 0.5).

The C parts exclusively use only the open and 1st finger on the D, A and G strings.

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- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$85.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$15.00

Extra Part - \$5.00



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Ride of the Dullahan

By Declan Postlethwaite, for Grade 2.5 or Multi-Level String Orchestra

Program Notes:

Ride of the Dullahan is inspired by an eerie Irish folk legend. The story of the 'Gan Ceann', or headless horseman, is about a fiend with blazing red eyes who rides his black steed through the night carrying his own head beneath his arms. He searches for his next victim under the veil of darkness.

In this piece you will hear a collection of leit-motifs and sounds which tell the story of a brave knight's fight with the Dullahan and his eventual demise. Listen out for the galloping rhythms of the horse, eerie melodic lines of the Dullahan and sudden bursts of energy as swords clash in the night.

About the Sound Effects:

For the "Wind SFX" students should blow air through their lips imitating the sound of wind, almost as if they are whistling, but without the full strength of a whistle. Have the sounds go up and down in pitch, growing and diminishing in intensity with the thickness of the line.

For the "Col Legno + Glissando" students should bounce the wood of their bow on the string while simultaneously sliding their left hand up and down the fingerboard. They are welcome to switch strings ad lib.

For the "x" marks - students will play any note on the string indicated. For example, in measure 35, Celli & Bass will glissando from any pitch on the notated string down to the low E in measure 36. Similarly, in measure 11, students will glissando up to any (non-specific) pitch. These pitches do not need to be the same as other players in the section.



About the Composer

Declan Postlethwaite blends together familiar sounds with a cinematic style to inspire young musicians and incite their imagination through music. A composer, conductor, strings educator, and cellist from a small town near Melbourne, Australia, Declan writes music filled with unforgettable melodies and idiomatic string writing. His compositions engage students both technically and emotionally with works that evoke mystical worlds and otherworldly landscapes.

A dedicated educator, Declan works in independent schools as an instrumental music tutor, orchestra director and a facilitator of beginner string programs across all age groups. He believes in the transformative power of music to ignite curiosity, foster connection, and nurture young musicians' growth. Declan holds a Bachelor of Music (Honours) in Composition from the University of Melbourne.

His works have been featured in the 2024 and 2025 Australian Strings Association Reading Days, contributing engaging new repertoire for young ensembles that balances fun with function. In his spare time, Declan enjoys playing video games with immersive fantasy stories, cooking, and folding origami.

His compositions span stage, screen, and concert hall, and have been performed locally and internationally. He has won awards including the Melbourne Recital Centre and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music Composition Award, and has received commissions from the Melbourne Composers League, Klammerlang Music Collective, Antelodic, and the University of Georgia Wind Ensemble. His film and television work has also gained recognition—most notably his score for the short film *Seeds*, which was nominated for the St. Kilda Top 100 Short Film Festival.

Find out more about Declan at www.declanpostlethwaitemusic.com

Ride of the Dullahan

For Grade 2.5 or Multi-Level Orchestra (2.5 • 1.5 • 0.5)

Score
Duration 3:20

Declan Postlethwaite

Misterioso ♩ = 68

Violin A1: Col leg. + glissando (any string)

Violin A2: Vocal Wind SFX

Viola A: light, brush stroke

Cello A: div. V, ppp, mp

Bass A: ppp, mp

Violin B1: Col leg. + glissando (any string)

Violin B2: Vocal Wind SFX

Viola B: Vocal Wind SFX

Cello B: ppp, mp

Bass B: ppp, mp

Violin C: Col leg. + glissando (any string)

Viola C: Vocal Wind SFX

Cello C: ppp, mp

Bass C: ppp, mp

1 2 3 4

Ride of the Dullahan - Score

U.H. \square V \circ

Vln. A1 *pp* *mf*

Vln. A2 *mf*

Vla. A *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Cello A *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Bass A *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vln. B1 *mf*

Vln. B2 *mf*

Vla. B *mf*

Cello B *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Bass B *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vln. C *mf*

Vla. C *mf*

Cello C *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Bass C *pp* *mp* *p* *mf*

5 6 7 8 9

1 0

1 0

1 0

1 0

The image displays a page of a musical score for the piece "Ride of the Dullahan". The page is numbered "4" in the top left corner. The title "Ride of the Dullahan - Score" is centered at the top. The score is arranged in three systems, each containing five staves for different instruments: Violin A1 and A2, Viola A, Cello A, and Bass A; Violin B1 and B2, Viola B, Cello B, and Bass B; and Violin C, Viola C, Cello C, and Bass C. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score covers measures 14 through 17. In measure 14, there are dynamic markings *p* and *ff* with a hairpin crescendo. A rehearsal mark "17" is enclosed in a box above the first staff in measure 17. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Randall Standridge Music Preview Only" is overlaid across the center of the page.

This musical score page contains three systems of staves for measures 18 through 21. The instruments are arranged as follows:

- System 1:** Violin A1, Violin A2, Viola A, Cello A, Bass A.
- System 2:** Violin B1, Violin B2, Viola B, Cello B, Bass B.
- System 3:** Violin C, Viola C, Cello C, Bass C.

Measure numbers 18, 19, 20, and 21 are printed below each system. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. A large watermark reading "Pandall Standridge Music Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. The text "non. div" appears above the Cello A and Cello B staves in measure 20. Fingerings (0 and 1) are indicated for the Cello C and Bass C staves in measures 20 and 21.

This musical score page contains measures 22 through 25 for the piece "Ride of the Dullahan". It is arranged for a string ensemble with the following parts: Violin A1, Violin A2, Viola A, Cello A, Bass A, Violin B1, Violin B2, Viola B, Cello B, Bass B, Violin C, Viola C, Cello C, and Bass C. The score is written in D major (two sharps) and 2/4 time. Measures 22 and 23 feature various melodic lines with accents and slurs, while measures 24 and 25 consist of dense, rhythmic patterns. A dynamic marking of *fp* (fortissimo piano) is present in measures 24 and 25 for most parts. A large watermark "Randall Standridge Music" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

This musical score page covers measures 30 through 33 of the piece "Ride of the Dullahan". It is arranged for a full orchestra with the following parts: Violin A1, Violin A2, Viola A, Cello A, Bass A, Violin B1, Violin B2, Viola B, Cello B, Bass B, Violin C, Viola C, Cello C, and Bass C. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Dynamics include piano (*p*) and fortissimo (*ff*), with crescendos and decrescendos indicated by hairpins. Performance markings such as *div.* (divisi) and *V.* (breath marks) are present. A large watermark "Randall Standalone Music Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. Measure numbers 30, 31, 32, and 33 are printed at the bottom of each measure group.

Ride of the Dullahan - Score

34

Vln. A1
f

Vln. A2
f L1 L2 V -H2

Vla. A
fp *ff*

Cello A
mf *ff* Any pitch on C string

Bass A
mf *ff* Any pitch on E string

Vln. B1
f

Vln. B2
f

Vla. B
f Any pitch on C string

Cello B
f Any pitch on E string

Bass B
f

Vln. C

Vla. C

Cello C

Bass C

34 35 36 37

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Ride of the Dullahan". It is organized into three systems of staves, each containing five parts: Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cello), and Bass (Bass). The first system includes parts A1, A2, A, and A. The second system includes parts B1, B2, B, and B. The third system includes parts C, C, C, and C. The score covers measures 47 through 50. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Performance markings include dynamics such as f_3 and various articulations like accents (L1, H2, H3) and breath marks (V). A large watermark "Randal Standridge Music" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

57 *poco accel.*

The score is divided into three systems of staves. The first system includes Violins A1 and A2, Viola A, Cello A, and Bass A. The second system includes Violins B1 and B2, Viola B, Cello B, and Bass B. The third system includes Violin C, Viola C, Cello C, and Bass C. Measure 56 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. In measure 57, the dynamic changes to mezzo-forte (*mf*) for Vln. A1 and piano (*p*) for the other instruments. Measure 58 features performance instructions: 'Col leg. + glissando (any string)' for the strings and 'Vocal Wind SFX' for the woodwinds. Measure 59 continues with the same instructions. Measure 60 concludes the section. A large watermark 'Randall Starbridge Music Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

61 Wild and Windy ♩ = 100

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each containing five staves. The instruments are Vln. A1, Vln. A2, Vla. A, Cello A, Bass A in the first system; Vln. B1, Vln. B2, Vla. B, Cello B, Bass B in the second system; and Vln. C, Vla. C, Cello C, Bass C in the third system. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the tempo is marked as ♩ = 100. The score is divided into three measures, numbered 61, 62, and 63 at the bottom of each system. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The notation includes various rhythmic values, slurs, and accents.

61

62

63

The image displays a page of a musical score for the piece "Ride of the Dullahan". The page is numbered 16 and contains measures 64, 65, and 66. The score is arranged in three systems, each with five staves. The instruments are Violins A1 and A2, Viola A, Cello A, and Bass A in the first system; Violins B1 and B2, Viola B, Cello B, and Bass B in the second system; and Violin C, Viola C, Cello C, and Bass C in the third system. The music is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 64 includes the instruction "non. div" for the Cello and Bass parts. Measure 66 includes the instruction "1/2 Pos." for the Bass part. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "Randall Starbridge Music Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

67

Vln. A1
Vln. A2
Vla. A
Cello A
Bass A
Vln. B1
Vln. B2
Vla. B
Cello B
Bass B
Vln. C
Vla. C
Cello C
Bass C

67 68 69

67

68

69

The image shows a page of a musical score for 'Ride of the Dullahan', covering measures 70 to 73. The score is arranged in three systems of staves. The first system includes Vln. A1, Vln. A2, Vla. A, Cello A, and Bass A. The second system includes Vln. B1, Vln. B2, Vla. B, Cello B, and Bass B. The third system includes Vln. C, Vla. C, Cello C, and Bass C. The music is in a key with two sharps (D major) and a 2/4 time signature. Dynamics include *fff* (fortissimo), *fp* (fortissimo piano), and *p* (piano). Performance markings include accents, slurs, and specific bowing techniques like *L1*, *L2*, and *div.* (divisi). Measure numbers 70, 71, 72, and 73 are clearly marked at the bottom of each staff.