

Dark Odyssey

For String Orchestra, Grade 3
by Jay Coles

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass*

Note from the Editor:

Syncopated accents drive this piece forward, while epic "video game-esque" melodies soar over the motor rhythms. Shifting occurs in all parts except Violin 2.

*A Cello 2 part that doubles the Bass is available as a free download at randallstandridge.com.
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$65.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$12.00

Extra Part - \$5.00



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By Jay Coles, Grade 3

Program Notes:

Dark Odyssey is a cinematic juggernaut that propels string players into the vast unknown of outer space. Brimming with bravado and driven by intense rhythmic outbursts, this work balances raw energy with moments of deep emotion, creating a musical journey that feels as if it could have been lifted straight from a video game soundtrack. Inspired by humanity's fascination with space exploration and the incredible advancements made by NASA, the piece captures both the danger and the wonder of venturing beyond our world. Pulsing rhythms convey the unstoppable force of rockets and cosmic travel, while soaring lines reflect the awe and mystery of the universe. *Dark Odyssey* challenges players with dynamic contrasts, powerful ensemble writing, and thrilling textures that showcase the full power of the string family. It's a bold and exciting musical adventure that invites performers and audiences alike to imagine what lies beyond the stars. I hope you enjoy performing this piece as much as I enjoyed writing it!

– Jay Coles



About the Composer

Jay Coles (b. 1975) is a composer, author, conductor, clinician, and public speaker who brings fun, unique, and highly educational music to the stage. His music has been performed all over the world, including the Midwest Clinic. His music appears on various concert and festival lists as well as earned J.W. Pepper's Editor's choice selections. Mr. Coles holds degrees from Vincennes University and Ball State University. Jay's books are published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers and Scholastic. His books have appeared in the New York Times, Teen Vogue, BuzzFeed, Bustle, and Entertainment Weekly, among other media outlets. His writing has won numerous award nominations and honors. Jay currently resides in Muncie, Indiana with his cat named Sage and when he's not composing music or writing books or cleaning up messes from his cat, he's playing drums for a band and playing video games, two of his favorite things to do. Jay is a member of ASCAP and is thrilled to be a part of the RSM family of composers.

Dark Odyssey

Score
Grade 3
Duration 4:15

Jay Coles
(ASCAP)

With Power ♩ = 152

Violin 1
f

Violin 2
f

Viola
(Violin 3)
f

Cello
f

Double Bass
(Cello 2)
f

1 2 3 4

This block contains the first four measures of the score. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola (Violin 3), Cello, and Double Bass (Cello 2). All parts are in 4/4 time and marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The music is characterized by a driving, rhythmic pattern with many accents. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

5 6 7 8 9

This block contains measures 5 through 9 of the score, continuing the same five-staff arrangement as the first block. The musical notation and dynamics remain consistent with the previous section. The 'Preview Only' watermark is also present here.

10

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

10 11 12 13

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 10 through 13. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measures 10 and 11 show the Violoncello and Double Bass parts with eighth-note patterns and accents. Measures 12 and 13 continue these patterns. The Violin and Viola parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

14 15 16 17

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 14 through 17. It features the same five staves as the first system. In measure 14, the Viola part begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a slur. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts are marked *sim.* (sustained). Measures 15 and 16 continue the Viola and lower string parts. Measure 17 shows a crescendo in the Viola part, indicated by a hairpin. The Violin parts remain silent. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

18 $\text{\textcircled{S}}$

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

18 19 20 21 22

26

Vln. 1 *p* *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

23 24 25 26 27

30

Vln. 1
mf *f*

Vln. 2
mf *f*

Vla.
mf *f*

Vc.
mf

D.B.
f

28 29 30 31 32

Vln. 1
sim.

Vln. 2

Vla.
sim.

Vc.
f

D.B.
sim.

33 34 35 36 37

40

Musical score for measures 38-42. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A box containing the number '40' is positioned above the first measure of the second system. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score. The measures are numbered 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 at the bottom of each system.

Musical score for measures 43-47. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score. The measures are numbered 43, 44, 45, 46, and 47 at the bottom of each system. The instruction 'bring out' is written above the Vln. 2 staff in measure 44.

48

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

48 49 50 51

This section of the score covers measures 48 to 51. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 48 starts with a box containing the number 48. The Violin 1 part has a series of eighth notes with accents. The Violin 2 part has a long, sustained note with a slur. The Viola and Violoncello parts have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents, marked with 'sim.'. The Double Bass part has a similar rhythmic pattern with accents. Measure 49 has a '4' above the first note of the Violin 1 part. Measure 50 and 51 continue the patterns established in the previous measures.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

52 53 54 55

To Coda ⊕

This section of the score covers measures 52 to 55. It features the same five staves as the previous section. Measure 52 starts with a box containing the number 52. The Violin 1 part has a 'div.' marking above the first measure. The Violin 2 part has a long, sustained note with a slur. The Viola part has a 'div.' marking above the first measure and a '(-1)' marking above the second measure. The Violoncello part has a '(-2)' marking above the second measure. The Double Bass part has a rhythmic pattern with accents. Measure 55 ends with a 'To Coda' symbol (⊕).

56 *rit.*

Vln. 1 *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f* div.

D.B. *f*

56 57 58 59 60

61 **With Emotion** ♩ = 80 *rit.* *a tempo*

Vln. 1 *mp* *mf*

Vln. 2 *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

D.B. *mp* *mf*

61 62 63 64 65 66

69

Musical score for measures 67-72. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 69 is marked with a box containing the number 69. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. Performance markings include *div.* (divisi) for the Viola in measure 71 and *mf* *sub.* (sustained) for the Violoncello and Double Bass in measure 76. Fingering numbers like 4, -4, and 0 are present. A large watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

67 68 69 70 71 72

76 With Growing Power ♩ = 132

Musical score for measures 73-78. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 76 is marked with a box containing the number 76 and the text 'With Growing Power' followed by a quarter note and '= 132'. Performance markings include *rit.* (ritardando) above the first measure, *accel.* (accelerando) above the last measure, and *mf* *sub.* (sustained) below the Violoncello and Double Bass staves. A large watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the score.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

73 74 75 76 77 78

88

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f* sim.

Vc. *f* sim.

D.B. *f* sim.

88 89 90 91 92

94

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 div.

Vla. sim.

Vc. sim.

D.B. sim.

93 94 95 96 97

102

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

98 99 100 101 102

fp *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *f*

(V)

div.

-0

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

103 104 105 106 107

fp *ff* *fp* *ff* *fp* *ff* *ff* *ff*

div.