

Ripcord

For String Orchestra, Grade 4
by Aaron Fryklund

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:

A great introduction to 7/8 time. This piece always uses the 2+2+3 version of 7/8, mixed with measures of 4/4. It sits around a grade 3.5 with moments of arpeggiated notes that stretch it to a 4.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$70.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$15.00

Extra Part - \$5.00



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By Aaron Fryklund, Grade 4

Program Notes:

Experience the thrill and terrifying exhilaration of skydiving with Ripcord! Set in 7/8, this piece will keep students on the edge of their seats through intense, driving rhythmic figures and a tight, energized melody. Students will be faced with sky-high shifting and dizzying arpeggios. Brief moments of respite and lyricism stand in contrast to the frantic free-fall that builds towards the harrowing end of the piece.

Ripcord was composed for the Richardson West JH orchestra in Richardson, Texas, directed by Angela Sledge. They premiered the piece in May, 2025.

About this Piece:

In the thematic pattern of three quarter notes followed by an eighth note (i.e. m1 in the viola and cello parts), the third quarter note should have a slight feeling of weightlessness before the eighth note. This could be accomplished by a slight lifting of the bow weight, and/or creating space as with a brush stroke.

Unless specifically marked, divisi/non-divisi is meant to be handled at the conductor's discretion.

From measure 111 through 114 cellos will execute one 4-measure long glissandi - from high to low while using tremolo. The exact starting and ending pitches are at each player's discretion.

At measure 115, the violas and cellos have a short aleatoric passage. It is intended for these players to repeatedly glissando from high to low on the A string in an asynchronous manner, with players overlapping their glissandi. The timing of each individual glissando should be approximately three to four beats, though this does not need to be precise for the intended effect.

In the violin 1 part, measures 138, 140, and 142 have the word "Frog" to indicate that the bow should be reset near the balance point for the printed up-bow note.



About the Composer:

Aaron Fryklund's music has been described in the press as "a joy to hear", and his film work earned him "BEST SCORE" at the 37th Boston Science Fiction Festival. His aesthetic covers a wide range of compositional styles and his works represent multiple mediums, including concert music, interactive computer music, film scores, theatrical works, and intermedia projects. Fryklund is also a conductor with broad experience before orchestras, wind ensembles, choirs, and small and new music ensembles. He is currently under commission from the state of Texas to create sight-reading music used for Spring orchestra assessments in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and other states.

Fryklund earned his bachelor's degree in music composition from Oklahoma City University studying with Edward Knight and his master's degree in music composition from the University of North Texas studying with Andrew May, David Bithell, and Cindy McTee. Besides being a composer, Fryklund is also an educator and a church music minister. He is the associate orchestra director at Richardson High School in the Richardson Independent School District. Additionally, Fryklund is Assistant Director of Music at First United Methodist Church of Sachse. He lives in Garland, Texas with his wife and sons.

Ripcord

Score
Grade 4
Duration 4:00

Aaron Fryklund

Agitato ♩ = 144 - 152
non div.

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola (Violin 3)
Cello
Double Bass (Cello 2)

1 2 3 4 5

div. as needed throughout

9

div. as needed throughout

6 7 8 9 10 11

Musical score for measures 12-17. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is 4/4. Measure 17 is marked with a box containing the number 17. The dynamic marking *p sub.* is present in measures 17 and 18. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *-1* marking above measure 13 and *V* markings above measures 14 and 15. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 17 and 18. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 17 and 18. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 18. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 19. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 19 and 20. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 19 and 20. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 20. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 20 and 21. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 20 and 21. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 21. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 21 and 22. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 21 and 22. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 22. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 22 and 23. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 22 and 23. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 23.

Musical score for measures 18-23. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking *mp* is present in measure 18. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 18. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 18 and 19. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 18 and 19. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 19. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 19 and 20. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 19 and 20. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 20. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 20 and 21. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 20 and 21. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 21. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 21 and 22. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 21 and 22. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 22. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have *V* markings above measures 22 and 23. The Vla. part has *V* markings above measures 22 and 23. The Vc. and D.B. parts have a *V* marking above measure 23.

27

24 25 26 27 28 29

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 24 through 29. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. A box containing the number '27' is positioned above the first staff at the start of measure 27. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Preview Only' is oriented diagonally across the page. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A fermata is present over the final note of measure 26. A '4' is written above the first staff in measure 25, and a 'v' is written above the first staff in measure 27. The D.B. staff shows a series of rests from measure 27 to 29.

30 31 32 33 34

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

p *p* *p* *p*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 30 through 34. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The key signature remains one flat and the time signature is 4/4. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Preview Only' is oriented diagonally across the page. Dynamic markings include *p* (piano). A fermata is present over the final note of measure 30. A '7' is written above the first staff at the beginning of measure 30. In measure 33, there are two 'v' markings above the first and second staves. The D.B. staff contains a series of eighth notes throughout the system.

35

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*
div. as needed throughout

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f*

35 36 37 38 39 40

43

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

41 42 43 44 45

Musical score for measures 46-50. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The time signature is 4/4. Measures 46-48 show a steady rhythmic pattern. Measure 49 features a four-measure rest for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, indicated by a '4' above the staff. Measure 50 continues the pattern. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

poco rit.

53

a tempo
off the string

Musical score for measures 51-55. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The time signature is 4/4. Measures 51-52 show a long note with a hairpin crescendo. Measure 53 features a seven-measure rest for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, indicated by a '7' above the staff, and a 'div.' marking. Measures 54-55 continue the pattern. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 56-59. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The time signature is 4/4. Measure 56 is marked with *mp*. Measures 57-59 are marked with *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 60-65. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The time signature is 4/4. Measure 60 is marked with *mp*. Measure 61 is marked with *norm.* and *mp*. Measures 62-65 are marked with *fp*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

66

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p* div. -3

Vla. *p*

Vc. *mp* off the string

D.B.

66 67 68 69

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 66 through 69. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 7/8. Measure 66 starts with a box containing the number '66'. The first two measures (66-67) are in 7/8 time, and the last two (68-69) are in 4/4 time. Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play sustained notes with a *p* dynamic. Vln. 2 has a 'div. -3' marking. Vla. plays a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. Vc. plays a rhythmic pattern with a *mp* dynamic and an 'off the string' marking. D.B. has rests in measures 66-67 and 68, and a note in measure 69.

Vln. 1 *pizz.* arco

Vln. 2 *pizz.*

Vla. off the string

Vc.

D.B. *p*

70 71 72 73

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 70 through 73. It features the same five staves as the previous block. Measures 70-71 are in 7/8 time, and measures 72-73 are in 4/4 time. Vln. 1 starts with a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking in measure 70 and switches to *arco* (arco) in measure 72. Vln. 2 plays a rhythmic pattern with a *pizz.* marking. Vla. plays a melodic line with an 'off the string' marking. Vc. plays a rhythmic pattern. D.B. plays a rhythmic pattern with a *p* dynamic.

74

Vln. 1 *mf* arco

Vln. 2 *mf* norm. *mp*

Vla. *mf* norm. *mp*

Vc. *mf* *mp*

D.B. *mf* *mp* Soli V -1

74 75 76 77 78 79

82

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf* V V

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf* -1

80 81 82 83 84 85

86

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

86 87 88 89 90 91

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 86 through 91. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The music is in 4/4 time. Measures 86-87 show a steady accompaniment with eighth notes in the strings. Measure 88 features a more active bass line with eighth notes and some grace notes. Measures 89-91 show a continuation of the accompaniment with some melodic movement in the lower strings. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

92 93 94 95 96

mp

Frog

mp

mp

mp

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 92 through 96. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The music continues in 4/4 time. Measures 92-94 show a consistent accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measure 95 has a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measure 96 features a melodic line in the Violin 1 part with a dynamic marking of *mp*. A 'Frog' marking is present in the Double Bass part in measure 93. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

98

Vln. 1 *f* *p sub.*

Vln. 2 *mf* *p sub.*

Vla. *f* *p sub.*

Vc. *f* *p sub.*

D.B. *f*

97 98 99 100 101 102

105

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *pizz.*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *p* *arco*

103 104 105 106 107 108

111

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

mp cresc.
mp cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
mp cresc.

109 110 111 112 113 114

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

f
non div.
f
f
f

gliss. (x)
repeated asynchronous gliss.
gliss. (x)
repeated asynchronous gliss.

115 116 117 118 119

Musical score for measures 120-124. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The time signature is 4/4. Measure 120 starts with a 4/4 time signature and a *mp* dynamic. Measures 121 and 122 have a 7/8 time signature and a *mp* dynamic. Measure 123 has a 7/8 time signature and a *f* dynamic. Measure 124 has a 4/4 time signature and a *f* dynamic. A box containing the number 123 is located above the Vln. 1 staff in measure 123. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 125-130. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The time signature is 4/4. Measures 125-129 have a 4/4 time signature. Measure 130 has a 7/8 time signature. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

131

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

131 132 133 134 135 136

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 131 through 136. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 7/8. The Vln. 1 part begins with a melodic line that includes a trill-like figure in measure 135. The Vln. 2 part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The Vla. part has a rhythmic, eighth-note pattern. The Vc. and D.B. parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

137

Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

ff Frog *ff* Frog *ff* Frog -2

137 138 139 140 141 142 143

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 137 through 143. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present at the beginning of each staff. The Vln. 1 part has a melodic line with 'Frog' markings (indicated by a 'V' with a downward arrow) above measures 137, 139, and 141. The Vln. 2 part has 'V' markings above measures 137, 139, and 141. The Vla. part has 'V' markings above measures 137, 139, and 141. The Vc. and D.B. parts have 'V' markings above measures 137, 139, and 141. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 144-149. The score is arranged in five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '-3' and 'V' above it in measures 144 and 145. Dynamic markings include *f* and *ff*. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for measures 150-154. The score is arranged in five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. Dynamic markings include *f*, *ff*, and *fff*. A large 'Preview Only' watermark is overlaid on the score.