

# Ready the Castle

For String Orchestra, Grade 1.5  
by JaRod Hall (ASCAP)

## Instrumentation

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

### Note from the Editor:

This piece teaches 6/8 time at a grade 1.5 level by only using simple rhythms:  
groups of three 8th notes, dotted quarter notes, and dotted half notes.  
It is written in e minor and stays mainly on the D and G strings, avoiding any low 2s.  
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - \$55.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



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# Ready the Castle

By JaRod Hall, Grade 1.5

## Program Notes:

*Ready the Castle* is a musical journey that transports listeners to a medieval battlefield. The piece is set in the key of e minor and features a lively 6/8 time signature, giving it an exhilarating forward-bounding momentum.

At the beginning, powerful low strings shake the castle walls, signaling an attack. As the upper strings soar in the following section, listeners can almost hear the rush of the moat waters and the creak of the drawbridge lifting as the castle prepares for war, rallying the troops to defend their fortress.

The battle rages on as the low strings drive the rhythmic pulse forward, while the upper strings weave catchy melodic lines into the fray, slowly building to a triumphant closing section in G Major. The final chord rings out, signaling the end of the battle and victory for the castle's defenders.

- JaRod Hall

## Educational features:

- Introduction to 6/8 time using only dotted quarters, dotted half notes and groups of 3 eighth notes.
- Variety of articulation – marcato, legato, détaché and accents.

## About the Composer

JaRod Hall (b. 1991) is a Texas-native educator, performer, and composer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas, where he studied conducting with Nicholas Williams and Dennis Fisher. JaRod's bands have received consistent sweepstakes awards at the Texas University Interscholastic League Concert and Sightreading Evaluations, as well as being recognized at the state level. In 2018 and 2019, JaRod's bands at Griffin Middle School earned the Citation of Excellence award, honoring the top two non-varsity bands in the state of Texas. Under his leadership, the R. L. Turner Marching Band in Carrollton, TX received 1st divisions and advanced to the Area Marching Contest for the first time in almost a decade; his Varsity band at Sam Houston Middle School in Irving, Texas received the unanimous 1st division ratings from all UIL judges for the first time in the school's history; his Varsity band at Hobby Middle School in San Antonio, TX achieved the same feat for the first time in five years.



JaRod is a tuba and trombone player by trade and has been a part of many esteemed ensembles, such as the North Texas Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band, 3

O' Clock Lab Band, Carrollton Wind Symphony, and Metropolitan Winds. During his time in high school, JaRod made the Texas All-State Band for all four years of his eligibility - the first three years of which were on tuba, eventually earning 1st chair Jazz Bass Trombone in the state his fourth and final year. He served as drum major for the 2013 Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps and was a member of the 2014 Disneyland All-American College Band.

As a composer, JaRod's compositions appear on the Texas Prescribed Music List, The J.W. Pepper "Editor's Choice" list, and the Bandworld Top 100 list. His composition *Lost Woods Fantasy* was showcased at the 73rd annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago by the Berkner High School Band, composed of the first students JaRod taught as a band director in Richardson ISD. His composition "Silver Fanfare" was selected as a winner of the Dallas Winds Call for Fanfares, and "Through the Storm" was selected as the 2021 Barbara Buehlman Prize winner for middle school band - commissioned by David Puckett and the Keller Middle School Band, premiered for Midwest by Robert Herrings the Artie Henry Middle School Band. Additionally, JaRod is a nationwide marching band and WGI arranger and consultant.

JaRod is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Composition at Texas State University. He resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Rachel (the smart one in the family), who is a medical student at the University of Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine.

# Ready the Castle

Score  
Grade 1.5  
Duration 1:45

JaRod Hall  
(ASCAP)

**Maestoso** ♩ = 108

The score is for the piece "Ready the Castle" by JaRod Hall. It is a Grade 1.5 score with a duration of 1:45. The tempo is marked "Maestoso" at 108 beats per minute. The time signature is 6/8. The score is written for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and Rehearsal Piano. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 6, and the second system contains measures 7 through 13. Rehearsal marks are indicated by a box with the number 9 above measure 9. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f marcato* and *f marcato*. There are also performance instructions like *V* and *>* throughout the score.

Ready the Castle - Score

Musical score for measures 14 through 19. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 14-15 feature a 3-measure rest for Vln. 2 and a 2-measure rest for Vla. and Vc. Measures 17-19 show a crescendo leading to a sustained chord in the piano.

14 15 16 17 18 19

21

Musical score for measures 20 through 26. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 20-21 feature a crescendo leading to a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measures 22-24 continue with a steady accompaniment. Measures 25-26 feature a sustained chord in the piano.

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Ready the Castle - Score

29

27 28 29 30 31 32 33

This block contains the musical score for measures 27 through 33. It features six staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and a grand staff for the Reh. Pno. (Rehearsal Piano). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 29 is marked with a box containing the number 29. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A fermata is present over the first note of Vln. 1 in measure 27. A *V* (Vibrato) marking is above the first note of Vln. 1 in measure 27 and above the first note of Vc. in measure 33. A large watermark 'Randal Standridge Music' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

37

34 35 36 37 38 39

This block contains the musical score for measures 34 through 39. It features the same six staves as the previous block. Measure 37 is marked with a box containing the number 37. Dynamics include *mf* (mezzo-forte). A large watermark 'Randal Standridge Music' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Musical score for measures 40-46. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 40-46 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the strings and piano accompaniment. A box containing the number '45' is positioned above the Violin 1 staff at the start of measure 45.

Musical score for measures 47-52. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 47-52 show a continuation of the rhythmic pattern, with dynamic markings of *p* (piano) appearing in measures 51 and 52. A rehearsal mark is present at the beginning of measure 48.

\*div - only divide in absence of basses, otherwise all play top

53

Vln. 1  
*legato*

Vln. 2  
*legato*

Vla.  
*legato*

Vc.  
*legato*

D.B.

Reh. Pno.  
*ped (ad lib)*

53 54 55 56 57 58

61

Vln. 1  
*f* *p détaché*

Vln. 2  
*f* *p détaché*

Vla.  
*f* *p détaché*

Vc.  
*f* *p détaché* \*div. V

D.B.  
*f* *p détaché* V

Reh. Pno.  
*f* *p norm.* V

59 60 61 62 63 64

Musical score for measures 65-70. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *cresc.* (crescendo) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The measures are numbered 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70.

Musical score for measures 71-76. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *f marcato* (forte marcato) and *f* (forte). A rehearsal mark **73** is placed above measure 73. The measures are numbered 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, and 76.



Ready the Castle - Score

81

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.) parts for measures 77-82. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff* and *non div.* and features a large watermark reading "Randall Standridge Music Only".

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Rehearsal Piano (Reh. Pno.) parts for measures 83-88. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff* and features a large watermark reading "Randall Standridge Music Only".