

Dark Odyssey

For String Orchestra, Grade 3
by Jay Coles (ASCAP)

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. 1995) 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

The musical score is written for five instruments: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola (Violin 3), Cello, and Double Bass (Cello 2). The piece is in 4/4 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The tempo is marked as 152 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems of four measures each, with measures numbered 1 through 9. The first system contains measures 1-4, and the second system contains measures 5-9. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and accents. A large watermark reading 'Randall Standridge Music' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

10

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

10 11 12 13

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

14 15 16 17

f

sim.

sim.

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

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

18 19 20 21 22

26

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

D.B. *mp*

23 24 25 26 27

30

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

D.B. *f*

28 29 30 31 32

Vln. 1 *sim.*

Vln. 2

Vla. *sim.*

Vc. -1 x4 -2

D.B. *sim.*

33 34 35 36 37

40

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

38 39 40 41 42

sim.

sim.

sim.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 38 to 42. It features five staves: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). Measures 38 and 39 show the initial melodic lines for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2, and the accompaniment for Vla., Vc., and D.B. Measure 40 is marked with a box containing the number '40'. Measures 41 and 42 feature a 'sim.' (sforzando) marking above the Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 staves. The D.B. staff has a '-2' marking above measure 40. A large, diagonal watermark 'Parallel Orchestral Music' is overlaid across the score.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

43 44 45 46 47

bring out

4

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 43 to 47. It features the same five staves as the previous system. Measure 43 shows the continuation of the Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 lines. Measure 44 has a 'bring out' instruction above the Vln. 2 staff. Measure 45 has a '4' marking above the Vln. 2 staff. Measures 46 and 47 continue the melodic and accompaniment lines. The D.B. staff has a '-2' marking above measure 45. A large, diagonal watermark 'Parallel Orchestral Music' is overlaid across the score.

48

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

48 49 50 51

This block contains the musical score for measures 48 through 51. It features five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Measure 48 is marked with a box containing the number 48. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like 'sim.'. A large watermark 'Preview Standridge Music' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

52 53 54 55

To Coda ⊕

This block contains the musical score for measures 52 through 55. It features the same five staves as the previous block. Measure 52 is marked with 'div.'. Measure 53 has markings for '-1' and '-2'. Measure 55 ends with 'To Coda ⊕'. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like 'div.'. A large watermark 'Preview Standridge Music' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

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.* for the Viola and *V* for the Violin and Viola. Fingering numbers 4, -4, and 0 are present. Measure numbers 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, and 72 are indicated at the bottom.

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 equal to 132. Performance markings include *rit.* and *accel.* for the strings. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf sub.*, and *cresc.*. Performance markings include *V* for the Violin and Viola, and *-1* for the Violoncello. Measure numbers 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78 are indicated at the bottom.

D.S. al Coda

Musical score for measures 79-83. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Measures 79 and 80 feature a *sim.* (sustained) marking. Measure 81 features a *f* (forte) marking. Measure 82 features a *f* marking. Measure 83 features a *f* marking. The Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 parts are mostly rests. The Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts have rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs.

⊕ Coda

84 With Power ♩ = 152

Musical score for measures 84-87, marked as Coda. The tempo is ♩ = 152. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Measure 84 has a *p* (piano) marking. Measure 85 has *mp* (mezzo-piano) markings for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. Measure 86 has *mf* (mezzo-forte) markings for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. Measure 87 has a *mf* marking for D.B. and a *div.* (divisi) marking for Vln. 1. The Vln. 1 part has a *(-1)* marking. The Vln. 2, Vla., and Vc. parts have rhythmic patterns with slurs. The D.B. part has a rhythmic pattern with a slur.

88

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

f

f

f

f

f

sim.

sim.

sim.

88 89 90 91 92

94

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

div.

sim.

sim.

sim.

93 94 95 96 97

102

(V)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

98 99 100 101 102

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

div.

-0

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

103 104 105 106 107

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

div.