

ENDURING ECHOES

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA
GRADE 2.5

BY KEVIN SLUDER

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About the Composer

Kevin Sluder is an orchestra director in Frisco, TX. Since 2007, he has taught at both the middle and high school levels.

In addition to writing for string orchestra, Mr. Sluder enjoys songwriting, recording his own music, getting lost in video games, camping, and co-hosting the string education podcast Rite of String. He resides in McKinney, TX with his wife (and fellow orchestra director) Bethany Hardwick.

Program Notes

This piece was commissioned by the Shadow Ridge Chamber Orchestra to honor the life and loss of loved ones, and the enduring echoes of their memory. *Enduring Echoes* is a reflection on the ways our lives are shaped by those we've loved and lost; an invitation to remember and feel the lasting resonance of connection that binds us all.

Set in A minor and C Major, this piece features a somber yet lyrical melody that moves forward with a gentle persistence. The harp opens and closes the work, introducing a simple, repeating motif that becomes the connecting thread woven throughout the music. As the piece progresses, this motif expands and transforms, as we do when a person's presence continues to echo through our lives, even after they are gone. The impact of our loved ones never fades. Instead, it grows, evolving in the hearts of those who carry their memory. This piece seeks not to explain loss, but to sit with it; to give shape to absence and voice to memory. We invite the audience into a space where love and sorrow coexist in harmonic connection with each other.

Conductor's Notes

Enduring Echoes can be played with harp or piano (or electric keyboard with a harp patch). If performing with a piano, have the player strategically use the sustain pedal throughout, but specifically hold it down for two bars at a time during the 5/8 theme.

Have your ensemble listen closely to the harp/piano during the 5/8 sections, as the repeated 8th note figure will help guide them through this less-familiar time signature. The staccato 8ths in the viola and cello should be performed with a light brush stroke, but not too short.

The upper octave 1st violin divisi at m102 is not necessary, but is a lovely addition if there are players able to handle the position work.

A "Bass on Cello" part is included for groups with little-to-no basses.

I hope you and your students enjoy *Enduring Echoes*.

Enduring Echoes

Kevin Sluder

 $\text{♩} = 112$

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Harp
(opt. Piano)

mp

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pizz.
mp

D.B.

pizz.
mp

Hp.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

17

Score for measures 17 through 24. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla. (pizz., mp), Vc., D.B., and Hp. The music features a pizzicato melody in the Violoncello and Double Bass, and a rhythmic accompaniment in the Harp.

Measures 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

25

Score for measures 25 through 32. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla. (arco, pp, cresc., mf, dim.), Vc. (arco, pp, cresc., mf, dim.), D.B. (arco, pp, cresc., f, dim.), and Hp. The music features a crescendo in the Violins and Violoncello, and a dynamic shift in the Double Bass.

Measures 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33

Score for measures 33 through 40. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Hp. The music features dynamic markings such as *p*, *cresc.*, *f*, and *dim.*. A large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the page.

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41

Score for measures 41 through 48. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Hp. The music features dynamic markings such as *pp* and *mf*. The time signature changes to 3/4. A large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the page.

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

*poco rit.***51** *a tempo*

Score for measures 49-56, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Hp.

Measure 49: Vln. II (pizz., *mp*), Vla. (rest), Vc. (rest), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 50: Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (rest), Vc. (rest), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 51: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (half note, *mp*), Vc. (half note, *mp*), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 52: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 53: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 54: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 55: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 56: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (quarter notes), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Score for measures 57-65, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Hp.

Measure 57: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 58: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 59: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 60: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 61: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 62: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 63: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 64: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

Measure 65: Vln. I (rest), Vln. II (rest), Vla. (half note), Vc. (half note), D.B. (quarter notes), Hp. (quarter notes).

66

two players

Vln. I

p

Vln. II

two players

p

Vla.

p

Vc.

p

pizz.

D.B.

pizz.

p

Hp.

66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

76

Vln. I

pp

Vln. II

pp

Vla.

p

Vc.

D.B.

Hp.

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84

85 *tutti* *poco rall.* *a tempo* 91

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

D.B. *mp* *mf*

Hp.

85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Hp.

94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101

102 div. (as able)

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f*

Hp. *f*

102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp*

D.B. *ppp*

Hp. *mf* *dim.* *mp*

121

Score for measures 119-126, rehearsal mark 121.

Instrument parts: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., Hp.

Measure 121 (Rehearsal Mark):

- Vln. I: *pp* *cresc.* (half note), *mf* *dim.* (half note)
- Vln. II: *pp* *cresc.* (half note), *mf* *dim.* (half note)
- Vla.: *pp* *cresc.* (quarter notes), *mf* *dim.* (quarter notes)
- Vc.: *pp* *cresc.* (quarter notes), *mf* *dim.* (quarter notes)
- D.B.: *pizz.* (quarter note), *mp* *cresc.* (quarter notes), *mf* *dim.* (quarter notes)
- Hp.: (bass clef) (quarter notes)

Measure numbers: 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126

129

Score for measures 127-134, rehearsal mark 129.

Instrument parts: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., Hp.

Measure 129 (Rehearsal Mark):

- Vln. I: *cresc.* (half note), *f* *dim.* (half note)
- Vln. II: *cresc.* (half note), *f* *dim.* (half note)
- Vla.: *p* *cresc.* (quarter notes), *f* *dim.* (quarter notes)
- Vc.: *p* *cresc.* (quarter notes), *f* *dim.* (quarter notes)
- D.B.: *mp* *cresc.* (quarter notes), *f* *dim.* (quarter notes)
- Hp.: (bass clef) (quarter notes)

Measure numbers: 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134

137

Score for measures 135-143. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Hp. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked *meno mosso*. The dynamics are *pp* (pianissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Vln. I part has a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking at measure 138. The Vln. II part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 138. The Vla. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 138. The Vc. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 138. The D.B. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 138. The Hp. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 138.



145

*meno mosso**poco rit.*

Score for measures 144-152. The score includes staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Hp. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked *meno mosso*. The dynamics are *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Vln. I part has a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking at measure 145. The Vln. II part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 145. The Vla. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 145. The Vc. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 145. The D.B. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 145. The Hp. part has a *pizz.* marking at measure 145.

