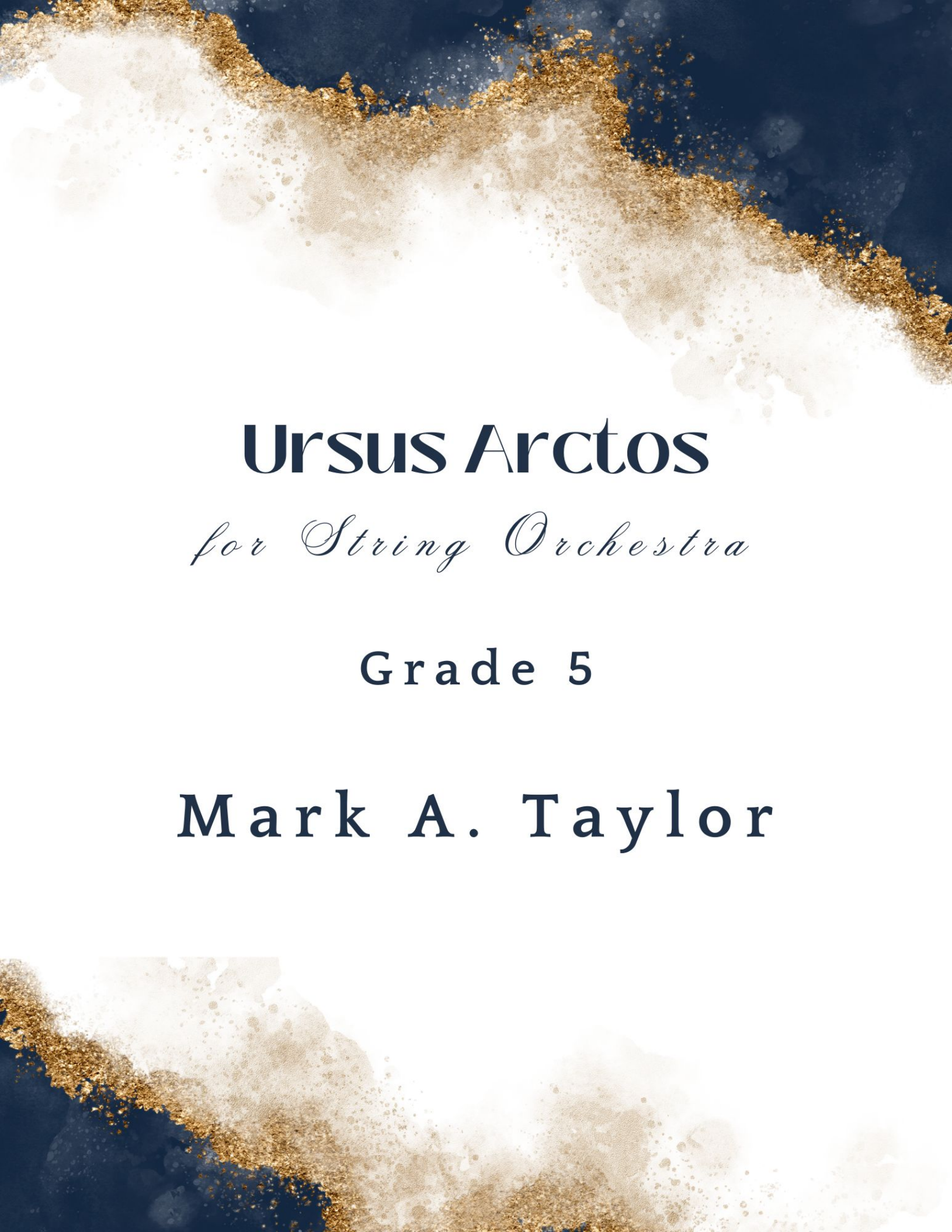




# Ursus Arctos

*for String Orchestra*

Grade 5

Mark A. Taylor

# Ursus Arctos



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## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass



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*To Austin Isaac and the Lake Braddock High School Orchestra students*

*May your artistic intent be realized through joyful work,  
carefully calculated technique, and creative prowess*

### **About the Piece**

*Ursus Arctos* for String Orchestra is the formal Latin name for brown bear, grizzly bear, or bruin. The work is composed of modulations in and out of the musical characterizations that define the magnificent creature. After a ferocious opening statement, performers bring to life playful curiosity, a state of tranquility, majestic rises, and more before a powerful return to the beginning.

The piece was written for Austin Isaac and the Lake Braddock High School Orchestra program. Their mascot, the bruin, inspired the title but their artistically driven technical decisions and creative prowess inspired the composition. Having the pleasure of working with many of these incredible students, I kept them in mind as both the target audience and performers for the piece.

### **Technical Considerations**

*Ursus Arctos* has fingerings provided that may be adjusted depending on the abilities of the performers and discretion of the director. Many passages in the second violin part might feel more comfortable in third position for advanced players, basses acclimated to “the box” will include more position work, etc. Execute the fast sixteenth cello pizzicato in measure 66 with two alternating fingers. The first violin and viola + in measure 73 indicates lefthand pizzicato. Mordents in the “Tranquillo” section may be performed by a single stand if needed for clarity.

Accents should align across sections of the orchestra but not necessarily across sections of the piece. The opening motive, for example, can be performed by all instruments in the lower part of the bow, with bow hair flat on the string, fairly close to the bridge to produce a gritty, aggressive tone for the “Furioso” passage. In contrast, accents in the “Curiously” passage may be played with more of a brilliant tone with less bow hair, bow placement based on the dynamic, etc. Performers should use their imaginations to picture what each section should sound like, then experiment with bow techniques that best bring their artistic visions to life.

### **About the Composer**



Mark A. Taylor is an award-winning music educator and composer. He teaches orchestra at Centreville High School in Fairfax County, VA, conducts with The Capitol Symphony Youth Orchestras, serves as an adjudicator and clinician, and composes for all levels and genres. In addition to teaching and writing, Dr. Taylor plays cello under the direction of his father, F. Wayne Taylor, in the Friends & Family Chamber Orchestra.

He holds a BM from George Mason University, an MME from Shenandoah Conservatory, and a DMA in Composition from George Mason University where he studied under Dr. Glenn Smith. When he is not making music, Dr. Taylor enjoys spending time with his family and riding his bike wherever the roads might take him. While he once took an unsupported bike trip from Virginia to Alabama to raise scholarship money for his students, most trips encompass a much smaller radius. Mark, his wife Holly, daughter Jacqueline, and son Curtis reside in Centreville, Virginia.

# Ursus Arctos

for String Orchestra

Duration: 5'00"

**Furioso** ♩ = 112

[illegible]

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Contra Bass

*mf* *f*

7 9

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Contra Bass

10 11 12 13 14

*f*

15

16

18

19

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabasso

20

21

22

*p* *ff* *mf* *p*

20

21

22

Violin I (Vln. I) *mp* *v*

Violin II (Vln. II)

Viola (Vla.) -2 H3 2 1 2 1 2 H3 1 2 H3 2 1 2 1 2 H3 1

Violoncello (Vc.)

Contrabass (Cb.)

23 24 25

Violin I (Vln. I) *mf* *mp* *mf*

Violin II (Vln. II) *mf*

Viola (Vla.) 2 H3 2 1 2 0 -1 *mf* *mp*

Violoncello (Vc.) *f* *mp*

Contrabass (Cb.) *f* *mp*

26 27 28

## 30 Curiously

Violin I (Vln. I): *mp* (measures 29-30), *mf* (measures 31-32), *p* (measure 33)

Violin II (Vln. II): *mp* (measure 29), *p* (measures 30-31), *mf* (measure 32)

Viola (Vla.): *p* (measures 29-30), *mf* (measures 31-32)

Violoncello (Vc.): *mp* (measures 29-30), *mf* (measures 31-32)

Contrabass (Cb.): *mp* (measures 29-30), *mf* (measures 31-32)

Measures 29, 30, 31, and 32 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Violin I (Vln. I): *mf* (measures 33-34), *p* (measure 35), *mf* (measure 36)

Violin II (Vln. II): *p* (measures 33-34), *mf* (measures 35-36)

Viola (Vla.): *mf* (measures 33-34), *p* (measure 35), *mf* (measure 36)

Violoncello (Vc.): *mf* (measures 33-34), *p* (measure 35), *mf* (measure 36)

Contrabass (Cb.): *mf* (measures 33-34), *p* (measure 35), *mf* (measure 36)

Measures 33, 34, 35, and 36 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

rit. . . . .

44 Tranquillo ♩ = 80

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

pizz.

p

mp

42 43 44 45

2 1 2 3 1 3 1 ... L2 4 3 3 L2 3 L2 1 L2 1 -3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

arco

1/2 pos.  
-1

*mp*

46 47 48 49

*mp*

arco

51 2 3 4 3 2 3 4 3 2 L2 1 L2 3 L2 1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf*

arco

*mf*

arco

*mf*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

50 51 52 53 54

59

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

mf

4

3

1

0

1

2

4

4

4

1

1

4

55

56

58

59

rit.

63

Jubilantly ♩ = 120

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

p

4

1

1

0 pizz.

mf

3

3

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

musical score for measures 67-70, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The notation includes pizzicato (pizz.) and triplets (3).

67 68 69 70

musical score for measures 71-74, featuring Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The notation includes arco (arco), pizzicato (pizz.), and triplets (3). Measure 71 is boxed.

71 72 73 74

1 2 H3 H3 4 1 H3 4 1 4 1 2 H3 2 -1 L2 3

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f* arco 4

Vla. *f* pizz. 4 0 4 -1 2 H3 4

Vc. *f* arco -1 3 4

Cb. *f* pizz. arco

75 76 77 78 79

rit. - - -

80 Majestically = 112

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

80 81 82 83 84 85

86

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

86 87 88 89 90

*f*

4

4

4

4

4

-2 1 -4

-2 1 -4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

91 92 93 94 95

*ff p*

*ff p*

*ff p*

*ff p*

*ff p*

3

3

3

3

3

4

V V

V V

-2 1 -4

102 103 104 105 106 107

*subito p* *ff*

Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 111-112) is marked 'D.C. al Fine' and 'CODA'. The second system (measures 113-114) is marked 'ff' and 'CODA'. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) staves are in treble clef. Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef. Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) are in bass clef. The score spans measures 114 to 118. Measure 114 has a 2/4 time signature. Measures 115 and 116 have a 3/4 time signature. Measures 117 and 118 have a 4/4 time signature. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. A large diagonal watermark is present across the lower half of the page.

114 115 116 117 118

Perusal Score Only  
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

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