

MERCURIAL

KEVIN SLUDER

STRING ORCHESTRA
GRADE 2.5

Perusal Score Only
Not for Rehearsal or Performance

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PROGRAM/CONDUCTOR NOTES

Mercury is in retrograde for this grade 2.5 piece. Most of the themes, both melodic and rhythmic, appear forwards and backwards throughout. For example, the vla/c/b at measure 19 are rhythmically "reversed" from measure 9. The main descending figure appears in reverse at times (and sometimes simultaneously). These are only a couple of examples, but they are everywhere throughout the piece. The final two measures are an exact mirror of each other.

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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Kevin Sluder is an orchestra director in the North Texas area and has been teaching in the public school system since 2007. His program at Lawler MS was named the TMEA MS Honor Full Orchestra in 2024 and 2026.

Born and raised in Mansfield, TX, Mr. Sluder obtained his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas in Denton. A bass player by trade, he also has experience in percussion and guitar, with a deep love of rhythm.



Outside of the classroom, Mr. Sluder spends a great deal of time composing and arranging music. He also runs two podcasts. *Rite of String*, co-hosted with Matthew Moreno, is focused on string education. *SluderMusic* is a showcase of Mr. Sluder's published pieces. In addition to his work in the "classical" world, he has written and recorded several albums that are available on most streaming services.

Mr. Sluder currently resides in McKinney, TX with his wife (and fellow orchestra director) Bethany Hardwick. In his limited spare time, he enjoys taking naps, camping, and playing video games.

Score
Grade 2.5
Length: 3:05

Mercurial

Written for the North Gwinnett Orchestra Community

Kevin Sluder

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

9

Score for measures 9 through 12, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamic marking *mf* is present at the beginning of each staff.

Measures 9, 10, 11, and 12 are shown. The Vln. I part has a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. Vln. II has a sustained note in measure 9 and a half note in measure 10. Vla. and Vc. have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. D.B. has a similar rhythmic pattern.

9 10 11 12

Score for measures 13 through 16, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Measures 13, 14, 15, and 16 are shown. The Vln. I part continues the melodic line. Vln. II has a sustained note in measure 13 and a half note in measure 14. Vla. and Vc. have a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. D.B. has a similar rhythmic pattern.

13 14 15 16

19 div.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz.

mp

17 18 19 20

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

21 22 23 24

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mf

arco

div.

mf

arco

mf

arco

mf

arco

25 26 27 28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

29 30 31 32

36

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

33 34 35 36

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

37 38 39 40 41

44

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

f

42 43 44 45

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pp *mf*

46 47 48 49

52

Score for measures 50-54, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Rehearsal or Performance".

Measures 50-54 are marked with *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measure 50 includes a *v* (accents) marking. Measure 54 includes a *V* (breath mark) marking.

58

Score for measures 55-59, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Rehearsal or Performance".

Measures 55-59 are marked with *mf* (mezzo-forte). Measure 55 includes a *div.* (divisi) marking. Measure 58 includes a *V* (breath mark) marking.

Score for measures 60-63, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts. The score includes dynamic markings (*mf*, *pp*) and performance instructions such as "(no bow lifts)", "div.", and "sim.".

Measures 60, 61, 62, and 63 are shown.

Score for measures 64-68, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts. The score includes dynamic markings (*mf*, *p*, *m*) and performance instructions such as "sim." and "V".

Measures 64, 65, 66, 67, and 68 are shown.

69

Score for measures 69-72, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in 2/5 time and key of D major. Measures 69 and 70 are marked *f* (forte). Measures 71 and 72 are marked *sim.* (sforzando). The Vln. I and Vln. II parts include accents (V) and slurs. The Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts are marked *f* in measure 69.

69 70 71 72

Score for measures 73-76, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is in 2/5 time and key of D major. Measures 73 and 74 are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). Measures 75 and 76 are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte). The Vln. I and Vln. II parts include accents (V) and slurs. The Vla., Vc., and D.B. parts are marked *mf* in measure 73.

73 74 75 76

77

Score for measures 77-80, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is marked *f* (forte). The Vln. I and Vla. parts include a fermata over the final measure (80). The Vc. and D.B. parts include a *sim.* (sustained) marking over the final measure (80).

77 78 79 80

Score for measures 81-84, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music is marked *ff* (fortissimo). The Vln. I and Vla. parts include a fermata over the final measure (84). The Vc. and D.B. parts include a *ff* marking over the final measure (84).

81 82 83 84

85

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

85 86 87 88 89

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

90 91 92 93

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff