

# STRIKE THE MARK

GRADE 2 STRING ORCHESTRA

REBECCA TOMPKINS



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## PROGRAM NOTES

“Ready, set, go” to all those moving towards achieving a goal! *Strike the Mark* is an upbeat piece intended to describe the energy needed to push forward in hitting a target, staying motivated, or simply choosing to stay positive in all areas of life. This simple yet fun, energetic piece will entertain the young string player, while teaching early skills of rhythm, such as quarters and eighths. The driving, repeated eighth notes at the beginning and end of phrases give it the character of the piece’s name.

## CONDUCTOR NOTES

*Strike the Mark* sticks with the most basic finger pattern position for all instruments. 1<sup>st</sup> Violin plays the main melody on the E string with the fourth finger B on the last note. Most notes are detached, but violas and seconds present a contrasting, lyrical slurred melody starting in measure 21. All sections will play the melody at least once.

I hope your students enjoy playing *Stike the Mark*!

## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Rebecca Tompkins is a private viola instructor in the Katy, Texas area, and currently maintains a studio of 22-25 viola students. Openings in her studio are in high demand as she has been well-respected and trusted by orchestra directors in her area through many years. Over the last forty years, she has taught students from elementary school through college age at many different levels. Several of her former students are orchestra directors in cities across the state of Texas. Each year, her students perform in their all-region orchestras, and she has taught many students that have performed in the Texas All-State Orchestras.

Rebecca became interested in music composition and arranging at age eleven, composing for piano, string orchestra, and various ensembles. She continued through her teaching years predominantly arranging music for her students to play, organizing performances of these arrangements for parties and community service performances. Within the last ten years, Rebecca has been arranging hymns for solo viola, and frequently plays them at church services in the Houston area. In the spring of 2022, she began writing and arranging music for string orchestra. It is a delight for her to create music for groups at various levels and to spark interest and joy in young people, as well as to help add to their musical development in style and technique.

Rebecca graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Viola Performance from the University of Houston, under the instruction of Lawrence Wheeler and Kenneth Goldsmith. She has performed in professional groups such as the Houston Ballet Orchestra, Houston Grand Opera, Theatre Under the Stars, Texas Opera Theatre, and National Repertory Orchestra based in Colorado. As a college student, she was named the central region winner of the Wendell Irish Viola Award.

In addition to music, Rebecca is a member of US Master’s Swimming. She also enjoys running, cycling, and pilates.



# Strike the Mark

Rebecca Tompkins

Allegro (♩ = ca. 120)

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass, measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) for measures 1 and 2, *mp* (mezzo-piano) for measure 3, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measure 4. A diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal or Performance" is overlaid across the score.

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass, measures 5-9. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) for measures 7 and 8, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 5, 6, and 9. A diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal or Performance" is overlaid across the score.

13

Musical score for measures 10-14. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 10 shows Vln. I with a melodic line and Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass with rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 11 continues the accompaniment. Measure 12 features a dynamic change to *f* for Vln. I, Vln. II, and Viola. Measure 13 features a dynamic change to *mp* for Vln. I, Vln. II, and Viola. Measure 14 features a dynamic change to *mf* for Vln. I, Vln. II, and Viola. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Perusal Score Only" is overlaid across the score.

Musical score for measures 15-19. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 15 features a dynamic change to *mf* for Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, and Cello. Measure 16 features a dynamic change to *f* for Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, and Cello. Measure 17 features a dynamic change to *mf* for Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, and Cello. Measure 18 continues the accompaniment. Measure 19 features a dynamic change to *mf* for Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, and Cello. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Perusal Score Only" is overlaid across the score.

21

Musical score for measures 20-23. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics for each instrument are as follows:

Instrument	Measure 20	Measure 21	Measure 22	Measure 23
Vln. I	<i>f</i>	<i>p</i> → <i>mf</i>	<i>mf</i>	<i>p</i> →
Vln. II	<i>f</i>	<i>mf</i> → <i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>mf</i>
Viola	<i>f</i>	<i>mf</i> → <i>f</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>mf</i>
Cello	<i>f</i>	<i>mp</i>	<i>mf</i>	<i>mp</i>
Bass	<i>f</i>	<i>mp</i>	<i>mf</i>	<i>mp</i>

Musical score for measures 24-28. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics for each instrument are as follows:

Instrument	Measure 24	Measure 25	Measure 26	Measure 27	Measure 28
Vln. I	<i>mf</i>	<i>mp</i>			<i>f</i>
Vln. II	<i>f</i>	<i>mf</i>			<i>f</i>
Viola	<i>f</i>	<i>mf</i>			<i>f</i>
Cello	<i>mf</i>	<i>mp</i>			<i>f</i>
Bass	<i>mf</i>	<i>mp</i>			<i>f</i>

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29

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *f* (forte). The score shows a crescendo from *mf* to *f* across the measures. Measure 29 starts with *mf*. Measure 30 continues with *mf*. Measure 31 starts with *mp*. Measure 32 ends with *f*. The Cello part has a *f* dynamic in measure 29 and *mp* in measure 31. The Bass part has a *f* dynamic in measure 32.

Musical score for measures 33-36. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *f* (forte). The score shows a crescendo from *mf* to *f* across the measures. Measure 33 starts with *mf*. Measure 34 continues with *mf*. Measure 35 starts with *mp*. Measure 36 ends with *f*. The Cello part has a *f* dynamic in measure 33 and *mp* in measure 35. The Bass part has a *f* dynamic in measure 36. The Cello part has a *div.* marking in measure 35.

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

37

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes dynamic markings (mf, f) and articulation marks (accents, slurs). There are also 'V' marks above the staves in measures 37, 38, and 39. A large diagonal watermark 'Not for Rehearsal or Performance' is overlaid across the score.

41

Musical score for measures 41-44. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes dynamic markings (mp, p, mf, f) and articulation marks (accents, slurs). There is a '4' mark above the Viola staff in measure 43. A large diagonal watermark 'Not for Rehearsal or Performance' is overlaid across the score.

45

Musical score for measures 45-48, featuring five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The score includes dynamic markings (*mf*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*) and a large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal or Performance". Measure numbers 45, 46, 47, and 48 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52, featuring five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The score includes dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*) and a large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal or Performance". Measure numbers 49, 50, 51, and 52 are indicated at the bottom of the staves.

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass

*mf*

53 54 55 56

57

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Viola  
Cello  
Bass

*f* *mp* *ff* *div.*

57 58 59 60