

Scissortail Suite

for string orchestra
by Aaron Fryklund

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CANE RIVER MUSIC

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Scissortail Suite, 20'

Aaron Fryklund (2023)

for string orchestra, grade 5

1. On Soaring Wind
2. Over Sun Soaked Prairie
3. In Undisturbed Stillness
4. Under Four Moons
5. Toward Vast Horizon

Program Notes:

Scissortail Suite is named for the state bird of Oklahoma, the Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher. This suite is a lovingly crafted homage to the state and it's glowing, natural beauty. I grew up and spent many years in Oklahoma and have a great appreciation for the wide-open sky with its surreal sunsets and the sweeping, golden prairie lands. There's no over-arching narrative to this piece, but in abstract it can be seen through the eyes of the titular bird soaring over the cities and fields. Scissortail Suite represents a gilded, nostalgic memory of the many years I spent in Oklahoma.

The suite is unified by interconnected themes, some with hidden significance. One of the themes presented in the first movement that reappears in each movement is based on a three-note motive using the numbers of an Oklahoma area code - 405 - which is expressed musically as a pitch class set. The piece is often highly rhythmic and requires a sort of raw, reckless playing similar to bluegrass fiddle styles. It's also built on numerous complex time signatures with sometimes frequent meter changes. The suite may be presented in its entirety, or in part.

Scissortail Suite was a finalist for The American Prize in 2024. Notable performances include the 2023 premiere of "On Soaring Wind" by the Dallas Asian American Youth Orchestra (Eric Fox Wells, director), the 2025 Oklahoma premiere of movements 1, 4, and 5 by the orchestra at Edmond Santa Fe High School (Sarah Neely, director) and the 2026 Music for All national festival performance of movements 1, 3, and 5 by the Keller High School orchestra (Adam Pratt, director).

Performance Notes:

3. In Undisturbed Stillness

- The opening chords should dovetail like lights fading in and out and overlapping. If the division results in one player per note, consider raising the dynamic level here.
- No vibrato before m18, not after m53.
- In mm29-30, the accented notes should sound at the same volume so they create a melodic line among the parts.
- In measures 59-61, the second violin and viola parts should start from almost nothing, swell up to create dissonance against the A major chord, then diminish back to nothing. The other parts should hold a steady, soft dynamic.

5. Toward Vast Horizon

- This movement should be played on the string with great energy and intensity, making sure the accented notes stand out. The technique is very similar to that utilized in the bluegrass tune, "Orange Blossom Special".

About the Composer:



Aaron Fryklund's music has been described in the press as "a joy to hear", and his film work earned him "BEST SCORE" at the 37th Boston Science Fiction Festival. His aesthetic covers a wide range of compositional styles and his works represent multiple mediums, including concert music, interactive computer music, film scores, theatrical works, and intermedia projects. Fryklund is also a conductor with broad experience before orchestras, wind ensembles, choirs, and small and new music ensembles. Fryklund recently won the Dallas Street Choir's "Home is..." composition contest and was a 2024 American Prize finalist for his orchestra piece "Scissortail Suite". A number of his pieces for young orchestra are published through Cane River Music, Carl Fischer, Kendor, Randall Standridge Music, and RBC Publications. He has been involved for several years in composing sight reading music for many states' Spring orchestra concert and sight reading assessments, including Texas, Virginia, and many others, and he is one of the authors of RBC's "Texas Prep" sight-reading books for string orchestra.

Fryklund earned his bachelor's degree in music composition from Oklahoma City University studying with Edward Knight and his master's degree in music composition from the University of North Texas studying with Andrew May and David Bithell. Besides being a composer, Fryklund is also an educator and a church music minister. He is the associate director of orchestras at Richardson High School and one of the music ministers at First United Methodist Church of Sachse, Texas. He lives in Garland, Texas with his wife and sons.

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On Soaring Wind

7/8 18
non div

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

f

18 19 20 21 23

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

24 25 26 27 28 29

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

34

p

p

solo

mf

solo

mf

30 31 32 33 34 35

mf

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

36 37 38 39 40 41

3/4 7/8 3/4 3/8 46

mp

mp

mp

mp

pp

tutti

pp

42 43 44 45 46 47

2/4 2/4 7/8

48 49 50 51 52 53 54

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For Performance

On Soaring Wind

Score for measures 55 to 61. The score is for five instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/8 (marked *non div*) and back to 2/4. Measures 55 and 56 have a *V V* marking above the Vln I staff. Measures 57 and 58 have a *V V* marking above the Vln I staff. Measures 59 and 60 have a *div* marking above the Vln I staff. Measure 61 has a *V V* marking above the Vln I staff.

Score for measures 62 to 67. The score is for five instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 3/8. Measure 62 has a *mf* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 63 has a *div* marking above the Vln I staff. Measure 64 has a *p* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 65 has a *mf* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 66 has a *mf* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 67 has a *mf* marking below the Vln I staff. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal or Performance" is overlaid across the score.

Score for measures 68 to 73. The score is for five instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature changes from 3/8 to 2/4 and back to 3/8. Measure 68 has a *div* marking above the Vln I staff. Measure 69 has a *p* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 70 has a *f* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 71 has a *mp* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 72 has a *mp* marking below the Vln I staff. Measure 73 has a *mp* marking below the Vln I staff. A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal or Performance" is overlaid across the score.

74 4 7 4 7 4 7

Vln I *pp*

Vln II *pp*

Vla *pp*

Cel. *mf*

D. B. *mf* 74 75 76 77 78 79

7 4 7 non div pizz. 3 7 3

Vln I *mf* non div pizz.

Vln II *mf*

Vla *f*

Cel. *f*

D. B. 80 81 82 83 84 85

div arco *pp* *ff* *p* 90 3 7

Vln I *pp* *ff* *p*

Vln II *pp* *ff* *f*

Vla *pp* *ff* *mf*

Cel. *pp* *ff* *non div* *mf*

D. B. *div* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *mf* 86 87 88 89 90 91

Score for Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. (Double Bass).

Measures 92-97:

- Vln I: *mf*, *p*, *mf*
- Vln II: *mf*
- Vla: *mf*
- Cel.: *p*, *mf*, *p*
- D. B.: *p*, *mf*, *p*

Measures 98-103:

- Vln I: *f*, *non div*, *pp*, *ff*
- Vln II: *non div*, *pp*, *ff*
- Vla: *non div*, *pp*, *ff*
- Cel.: *mf*, *pp*, *ff*
- D. B.: *mf*, *pp*, *ff*, *p*

Measures 104-109:

- Vln I: *pp*, *ff*, *f*, *non div*
- Vln II: *pp*, *ff*, *f*, *non div*
- Vla: *pp*, *ff*, *f*
- Cel.: *pp*, *ff*, *f*
- D. B.: *ff*, *p*, *f*

Rehearsal mark 106 is indicated above measure 106.

3/4 *div*

Vln I *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln II *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vla *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Cel. *pp* *ff* *pp* *mf* *pp*

D. B. *ff* 110 *p* 111 *ff* 112 *p* 113 *f* 114 *p* 115 *mf* 116

Vln I *mp*

Vln II *mp* *solo a2, div* *p* *tutti* *mp*

Vla *mp* *p* *solo a2, div*

Cel. *mp* *p* *solo a2, div*

D. B. *p* *mp* 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

Score for measures 127-136. Instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., D. B.

Measure 127: Vln I, Vln II, Vla (tutti *mp*), Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 128: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 129: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 130: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 131: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 132: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 133: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 134: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 135: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (tutti div *p*), D. B. (tutti div *p*). Measure 136: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (tutti div *p*), D. B. (tutti div *p*).

Score for measures 137-144. Instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., D. B.

Measure 137: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 138: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 139: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 140: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 141: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 142: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 143: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 144: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (tutti *pp*), D. B. (tutti *pp*).

Score for measures 145-150. Instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., D. B.

Measure 145: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 146: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 147: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 148: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 149: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo). Measure 150: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel. (solo), D. B. (solo).

On Soaring Wind

9

153 *non div*

Vln I *fz* *f*

Vln II *fz* *f*

Vla *fz* *f*

Cel. *fz* *f*

D. B. *fz* *f*

151 152 153 154 155 156

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel. *f*

D. B.

157 158 159 160 161 162

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

163 164 165 166 167 168

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169 170 171 172 173 174

175 176 177 178 179 180

181 182 183 184 185 186

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2. Over Sun Soaked Prairie

4/4 With overflowing energy, ♩ = 116

Violin I *f*

Violin II *f*

Viola

Cello *p* *f*

Double Bass *p* *f*

2 3

5/4

Vln I *f*

Vln II

Vla *f*

Cel. *f*

D. B. *pp* *f*

4 5 6 7 8

4/4

Vln I *ffz*

Vln II *ffz*

Vla *ffz*

Cel. *ffz*

D. B. *ffz*

9 10 11 12 13

4/4 14 5/4

Vln I *f*

Vln II *f*

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

14 15 16

5/4

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf*

Vla *f* *mf*

Cel. *mf*

D. B. *pp* *f* *mf*

17 18 19 20 21

Tenaciously 27

Vln I

Vln II *p* (V)

Vla *p* (V)

Cel. *p*

D. B. *p* (V)

22 23 24 25 26 27

Score for measures 28-32, featuring Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The music is in G major and 4/4 time. Measures 28-32 show a continuous melodic line in the violins and a supporting bass line in the cellos and double basses.



Measures 28 29 30 31 32

Score for measures 33-37, featuring Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The music continues with dynamic markings *mf* and *p*. Measures 33-37 show a continuous melodic line in the violins and a supporting bass line in the cellos and double basses.



Measures 33 34 35 36 37

Score for measures 38-42, featuring Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The music continues with dynamic markings *p*. Measures 38-42 show a continuous melodic line in the violins and a supporting bass line in the cellos and double basses.



Measures 38 39 40 41 42

div.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

43 44 45 46 47

51

2 + 2 + 2

div.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

48 50 51 52

mp

3 + 2 + 2 + 2

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

53 54 55 56

mf *mp*

3 + 3 + 3

Vln I *mf*

Vln II *mf* div.

Vla *mf*

Cel. *mf*

D. B. *mf*

57 58 59 60 61

Vln I *p*

Vln II *p*

Vla *p*

Cel. *p*

D. B. *p*

62 63 64 65 66

67 3 + 2 + 2 + 2

Vln I *mp*

Vln II *mp* div.

Vla *mp*

Cel. *mp*

D. B. *mp*

67 68 69 70

12/8 9/8

3 + 2 + 2 + 2

Vln I *mp* *div.*

Vln II *mp* *div.*

Vla *mp*

Cel. *mp*

D. B. *mp*

f

71 72 73 74

3 + 3 + 3

Vln I *ff*

Vln II *ff*

Vla *ff* 3

Cel. *ff*

D. B. *ff*

75 76 77 78

5/4

Vln I

Vln II

Vla 3

Cel. *ff*

D. B. *ff*

79 80 81

82 83 84 85 86 88 89 90 91 92

4/4 Slower

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3. In Undisturbed Stillness

4 Nearly motionless, $\text{♩} = 68$

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

div.

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

2 3 4 5 6 7 *p* 8

9 div.

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

pp *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 **25**

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

pp *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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This image shows a page from a musical score, specifically measures 41 through 47. The score is for a full orchestra, with staves for Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Cello (Cel.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 3/4. The music is in a major key. The tempo is marked 'Allegretto' and the dynamics are 'mf' (mezzo-forte). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Not for' is visible across the page.

Score for *In Undisturbed Stillness*, measures 48 through 62. The score is written for five staves: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#).

Measures 48-55:

- Vln I:** Rests in measures 48-50. Measure 51: *pp*. Measures 52-55: Rests.
- Vln II:** Measures 48-50: *pp*. Measures 51-55: *pp* with *div.* markings.
- Vla:** Measures 48-50: *pp*. Measures 51-55: *pp* with *div.* markings.
- Cel.:** Measures 48-50: *pp*. Measures 51-55: *pp*.
- D. B.:** Measures 48-50: *pp*. Measures 51-55: *pp*.

Measures 56-62:

- Vln I:** Measures 56-57: *pp*. Measures 58-62: *ppp* with *div.* markings.
- Vln II:** Measures 56-57: *pp*. Measures 58-62: *ppp* with *div.* markings.
- Vla:** Measures 56-57: *p*. Measures 58-62: *ppp* with *div.* markings.
- Cel.:** Measures 56-57: *p*. Measures 58-62: *pp*.
- D. B.:** Measures 56-57: *p*. Measures 58-62: *pp*.

Dynamic Markings: *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *ppp* (pianississimo).

Performance Instructions: *div.* (divisi).

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4. Under Four Moons

Like a slow, graceful dance, ♩ = 80

Violin I solo *p*

Violin II *pp* solo

Viola *pp* solo

Cello

Double Bass

2 3 4 5 6 7

Vln I *pp* a2, div

Vln II *pp* a2, div

Vla *p* solo

Cel. *p* solo

D. B. *p* solo

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

17 tutti

Vln I tutti, div

Vln II tutti

Vla tutti

Cel. tutti

D. B. tutti

16 17 18 19

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accel.....

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

20 21 22 23

26 Flowing and playful. 68

24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31 32 33

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2/4 3/4 36

Vln I *p*

Vln II *mp*

Vla *mp*

Cel. *mf*

D. B.

34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

Vln I *mp*

Vln II *mp*

Vla *mp*

Cel. *mp*

D. B. *mp*

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

50 51 52 53 54

[illegible]

5. Toward Vast Horizon

3/4 With reckless speed, ♩ = 104

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14

f

mf

f

mp

mf

mf

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17

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26 27

f

mp

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31

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

28 29 30 31 32

f

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

33 34 35 36

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

39

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

37 38 39 40 41

mf

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Score for measures 42 to 46, featuring Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music includes various dynamics such as *mf* and *f*.

Measures 42, 43, 44, 45, and 46 are shown. The Vln I and Vln II parts have melodic lines with slurs. The Vla part has a sustained note in measure 42 and then rests. The Cel. part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The D. B. part has a sustained note in measure 42 and then rests. Dynamics include *mf* for Vln I, Vln II, and D. B. in measure 46, and *f* for Vla and Cel. in measure 47.

Score for measures 47 to 51, featuring Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.

Measures 47, 48, 49, 50, and 51 are shown. The Vln I and Vln II parts have melodic lines with slurs. The Vla part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Cel. part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The D. B. part has a sustained note in measure 47 and then rests. Dynamics include *mf* for Vln I, Vln II, and D. B. in measure 47, *f* for Vla and Cel. in measure 47, and *ff* for Vln I, Vln II, Vla, and Cel. in measure 55.

Score for measures 52 to 56, featuring Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The music includes various dynamics such as *f*, *ff*, and *div.*.

Measures 52, 53, 54, 55, and 56 are shown. The Vln I and Vln II parts have melodic lines with slurs. The Vla part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Cel. part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The D. B. part has a sustained note in measure 52 and then rests. Dynamics include *f* for Vln I, Vln II, Vla, and Cel. in measure 52, *ff* for Vln I, Vln II, Vla, and Cel. in measure 55, and *div.* for Vln I in measure 55. A box containing the number 55 is placed above the Vln I staff in measure 55.

57 58 59

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

div.

div.

60 61 62 63

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

div.

64 65 66

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

pizz.

pizz.

p

p

mp

Score for measures 67-69. The score is for five instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 3/4. The score is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and includes the instruction *arco* for the Violins and Viola.

Measures 67, 68, and 69 are shown. The score is marked *mp* (mezzo-piano) and includes the instruction *arco* for the Violins and Viola.

Score for measures 70-73. The score is for five instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 3/4. The score is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and includes the instruction *pizz.* (pizzicato) for the Violins and Viola.

Measures 70, 71, 72, and 73 are shown. The score is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) and includes the instruction *pizz.* (pizzicato) for the Violins and Viola.

Score for measures 74-77. The score is for five instruments: Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Cel., and D. B. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 3/4. The score is marked *f* (forte) and includes the instruction *arco* for the Violins and Viola.

Measures 74, 75, 76, and 77 are shown. The score is marked *f* (forte) and includes the instruction *arco* for the Violins and Viola.

78 79 80 81 82

ff

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Cel.

D. B.

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Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 78 through 82 of the piece 'Toward Vast Horizon'. The score is written for five instruments: Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Cello (Cel.), and Double Bass (D. B.). Measures 78 and 79 are marked with a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and phrasing slurs. A large, diagonal watermark is overlaid across the lower half of the page, reading 'Perusal Score Only' and 'Not for Rehearsal or Performance'.

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