

STEVEN BRYANT

The Low Arc of the Sun

String Orchestra
(2018)

PROGRAM NOTE

The Low Arc of the Sun is a string orchestra arrangement of the original band work of the same title, itself a part of the larger *Miniature Suite*, a suite of five works commissioned by Kappa Kappa Psi, National Band Fraternity, and Tau Beta Sigma, National Band Sorority for the 2017 national convention. The work is a wistful chorale, evocative of the short, gray days in midwinter, marked by the low path of the sun across the horizon. This version was written for Jeff Grogan and the 2018 Texas All-State String Orchestra, who gave the world premiere in February, 2018.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Steven Bryant's (b. 1972, Little Rock, Arkansas) musical interests span a variety of styles, and his catalog includes numerous works for wind ensemble, orchestra, electronic and electro-acoustic creations, chamber music, etc. He studied composition with John Corigliano at The Juilliard School, Cindy McTee at the University of North Texas, and Francis McBeth at Ouachita University. A full bio and more is available at www.stevenbryant.com.

ALL INQUIRIES

(musical questions, technical questions, buying music, commissions, marching licenses, errata, etc.):

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Score

The Low Arc of the Sun

Steven Bryant
2018

Legato $\text{♩} = 38 / \text{♩} = 76$

The musical score is written for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Contrabass, and Harp or Piano (optional). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/2. The score is marked 'Legato' and includes a tempo indication of $\text{♩} = 38 / \text{♩} = 76$. The dynamics are marked 'p' (piano) for the Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello parts. The Cello part includes a 'Div.' (divisi) marking at the end of the piece. The Harp or Piano part is optional and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) with rests throughout the piece.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp./Pno.
(optional)

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slow gliss. evenly
Unis. across entire half-note

Slow gliss. evenly
across entire half-note

p

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp./Pno.
(optional)

16

17

18

19

20

The musical score is arranged in a system with seven staves. The top two staves are for Violins I and II, both in treble clef. The next two staves are for Violas, both in alto clef. The third staff from the top is for Violoncello in bass clef. The fourth staff is for Contrabass in bass clef. The bottom two staves are for Harp/Piano, with the right hand in treble clef and the left hand in bass clef. The score spans five measures, numbered 16 to 20 at the bottom. The first measure (16) has a whole rest for Vln. I and Vln. II, and a quarter rest for the two Vla. parts. The second measure (17) has a whole rest for Vln. I and Vln. II, and a quarter rest for the two Vla. parts. The third measure (18) has a whole rest for Vln. I and Vln. II, and a half note for the two Vla. parts. The fourth measure (19) has a whole rest for Vln. I and Vln. II, and a half note for the two Vla. parts. The fifth measure (20) has a whole rest for Vln. I and Vln. II, and a quarter rest for the two Vla. parts. The Vc. part has a whole note in measure 16, a whole note in measure 17, and a half note in measure 18. The Cb. part has a whole rest in measure 16, a whole rest in measure 17, and a whole note in measure 18. The Hp./Pno. part has a whole rest in measure 16, a whole rest in measure 17, and a whole note in measure 18. The text 'Solo' is written above the first Vla. staff in measure 16 and above the second Vla. staff in measure 17. The text 'p' is written below the first Vla. staff in measure 16 and below the second Vla. staff in measure 17. The text '2 players only Div.' is written above the Vc. staff in measure 18.

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21 22 23 24 25 26

Vln. I Solo *p* *mp* Tutti

Vln. II Solo *p* *mp* Tutti

Vla. *mp* Tutti Unis.

Vcl. *mp*

Cb. Solo *mp*

Hp./Pno. (optional) *p* *mp*

28

The musical score consists of six staves. The first three staves are for Violin I, Violin II, and Viola. The last three staves are for Violoncello, Contrabass, and Harp/Piano (optional). The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measure 28 is highlighted with a box. The Vln. I and Vln. II parts play a melodic line starting in measure 28 with a *p* dynamic. The Vla. part also plays a melodic line starting in measure 28 with a *p* dynamic and is marked *Unis.* The Vc. and Cb. parts play a bass line starting in measure 27, marked *Tutti* and *Unis.*, with a *Slow gliss. evenly across entire half-note* instruction. The Hp./Pno. part is optional and consists of a sustained chord in the right hand and a sustained chord in the left hand.

27

28

29

30

31

35

32 *poco rit.* *a tempo* Solo

Vln. I (gli altri) *pp*

Vln. II Solo *pp* (*pp*)

Vla. *pp* (*pp*) *tr* (whole-step)

Vc. *pp* Div. *pp* (*pp*) *tr* (whole-step)

Cb. *pp* (*pp*)

Hp./Pno. (optional) *pp*

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42

39

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Cb.

Hp./Pno.
(optional)

Musical score for 'The Low Arc of the Sun' starting at measure 39. The score includes parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Harp/Piano. Dynamics range from piano (*p*) to mezzo-forte (*mf*). Performance instructions include 'Tutti Div.', 'Unis.', and 'Tutti Unis.'. Trills are marked with '(whole-step) tr'. The score spans measures 39 to 44.

39

40

41

42

43

44

poco rit.

45

cresc. poco a poco . . .

cresc. poco a poco . . .

cresc. poco a poco . . .

cresc. poco a poco . . .

Div. *Unis.* *Div.*

Div. *Unis. (bring out)* *Div.*

cresc. poco a poco . . .

cresc. poco a poco . . .

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Hp./Pno.
(optional)

50 *a tempo*

The score is for the piece "The Low Arc of the Sun" and is marked "50 a tempo". It features the following parts:

- Vln. I:** Two staves. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then softens to mezzo-forte (*mf*). Includes a crescendo hairpin.
- Vln. II:** Two staves. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then softens to mezzo-piano (*mp*). Includes a crescendo hairpin.
- Vla.:** One staff in alto clef. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then softens to mezzo-piano (*mp*). Includes a crescendo hairpin. Features a trill marked "tr (whole-step)" and a "Div." (divisi) instruction.
- Vc.:** One staff in bass clef. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic, then softens to mezzo-forte (*mf*), and finally to mezzo-piano (*mp*). Includes a crescendo hairpin.
- Cb.:** One staff in bass clef. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Includes a crescendo hairpin.
- Hp./Pno. (optional):** Two staves. Starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Includes a crescendo hairpin.

The score spans measures 50 to 57. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 12/8.

50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57

58

Solo

The musical score is arranged in a system with five staves. The top staff is for Violin I (Vln. I), marked 'Solo' and 'p'. The second staff is for Violin I (Vln. I), marked 'gli altri' and 'p'. The third staff is for Violin II (Vln. II), marked 'Tutti' and 'p'. The fourth staff is for Viola (Vla.), marked 'Tutti' and 'p'. The fifth staff is for optional Harp/Piano (Hp./Pno. (optional)). The score spans measures 58 to 64. A large watermark is centered over the score.

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