

Assemble the Guard

For String Orchestra, Grade 1
by Di3n Morales (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass
1 - Rehearsal Piano
2 - Optional Percussion (Low Tom)*

Note from the Editor:

In this grade 1 work the Violin 2 and Viola double, as do the Cello and Bass.
All parts use a limited 6 note range of D to B, except the First Violins who also venture to High D and Open E.

Though optional, the Low Tom part adds to the color of the piece.

*A free downloadable percussion track is available at randallstandridge.com.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$55.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



Randall Standridge Music, LLC - 26 County Road 472 - Jonesboro, AR 72404 - 870-926-3479
www.randallstandridge.com - randallstandridge@yahoo.com

Assemble the Guard

By Di3n Morales, Grade 1

Program Notes:

As an avid enthusiast of fantasy and sci-fi narratives, I consistently find inspiration for my compositions within these imaginative worlds. In many of these stories there are attacks on castles or fortresses, where the guards need to quickly gather to protect their home; but in most of these stories these guards are faceless. They are not the main characters of the story, but without them the castle would be overrun! What unknown force are these guards preparing against? You decide! It's an open canvas for interpretation, allowing for creative exploration and story development with your students.

In my mind, these guardians are gearing up for the imminent arrival of the Alpha Dragon, a formidable presence introduced in another piece of mine titled *Dragon's Revenge* (Gr. 2 - available through Randall Standridge Music). The connection between these compositions adds to the narrative of the broader musical universe I'm creating through my music.

Performance Notes:

STOMP! - Starting in m. 41 this piece features several big stomps. This should be done with only one foot in order to maintain physical balance. Additionally, have students try with one foot and then the other to figure out which is most comfortable for them. For my students, a majority of them preferred using their left, but that was not unanimous. You may need to work on body coordination to perform these stomps on time, so I suggest practicing each stomp with its coordinating musical material separately.

Percussion - The percussion part included in this score is at a grade 1 level. This could be an opportunity for collaboration with a band colleague or you could have one of your students perform it. Another option is to download and play along with the percussion backing track from the Randall Standridge Music page for *Assemble the Guard* in rehearsal or as a home practice track (aka metronome!) for students.

Accents - This piece has lots of accented notes. The bow should make solid contact with the string before each stroke in order to create a powerful beginning to these notes.

- Di3n Morales



About the Composer

Di3n (pronounced: dee-own) Morales was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois with his wife and two daughters. He began his orchestral studies as a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. He received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music in 2010 and returned to VanderCook for his Masters degree, which was completed in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010. The arranging of music by minority composers for school orchestra programs is a project that he has been developing since 2020. Music from this project has been performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic and has won multiple awards.

Alongside his arrangements, Dion is also passionate about writing original works for student ensembles at all levels. As an educator and composer he has used his experience in the classroom to create pieces that students enjoy as well as providing appropriate challenges for ensembles at various levels.

Di3n is married to Devon Morales. She is the department chair and head orchestra director at Lane Tech, as well as a fellow composer and arranger.

Assemble the Guard

Score
Grade 1
Duration 2:05

Dión Morales
(ASCAP)

Boldly ♩ = 116

The score is written for a string ensemble and includes optional percussion. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 116 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Rehearsal Piano, and Opt. Percussion (Low Tom). The second system includes Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Pno., and Perc. The score includes dynamics such as *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). Rehearsal marks 1 through 10 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Musical score for measures 11 through 15. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 11-15 show a rhythmic pattern with various dynamics and articulations.

Musical score for measures 16 through 20. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). A box containing the number 17 is positioned above measure 17. The score features dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *f* (forte), and includes the instruction "STOMP!" with an 'x' mark above the notes in measures 18 and 20. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Assemble the Guard - Score

25

Sheet music for measures 21-25. Instruments include Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Pno., and Perc. Dynamics range from *f* to *p*. Includes a "STOMP!" instruction.

Sheet music for measures 26-30. Instruments include Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Pno., and Perc. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*. Includes a "V" instruction.

Assemble the Guard - Score

33

Musical score for measures 31-35. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 31 and 32 feature a dynamic marking of *f* and include the instruction "arco". Measures 33-35 continue with the *f* dynamic. A box containing the number "33" is positioned above the first measure of the first system. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Randall Standridge Music Preview Only" is overlaid across the score.

Musical score for measures 36-40. The score includes parts for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 36-40 continue the musical piece. A large, diagonal watermark reading "Randall Standridge Music Preview Only" is overlaid across the score.

Assemble the Guard - Score

41

STOMP!

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

41 42 43 44 45

49

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

46 47 48 49 50

mf *f*

Musical score for measures 51-55. The score includes staves for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations like accents and slurs.

Musical score for measures 56-60. This section begins with a box containing the number 57 above the first measure of the Violin 1 staff. A dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) is present in measures 57, 58, and 59 across all string and piano parts. The Percussion part continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 60.