First Plus String Orchestra

Grade 1.5



Western Dawn

Alan Lee Silva

FAS58 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Violin I	
Violin II	
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	2
Viola`	
Cello	5
Bass	5
Piano	1

Program Note

Starting with the pastoral opening phrase, Western Dawn paints a portrait of Americana, underscoring the comings and goings of a small western town as the sun fills the morning sky.

The form is AABCA. In general, the (A) sections (m. 10, m. 18, m. 50) are played with a spirited, vigorous *marcato*, and the (B) section at m. 26 is played with a graceful and emotional *legato*. The pulsing (C) section at m. 36 features a question and answer between Violin I and Violin 2/Viola, plus open-string, double-stops in the high strings. There are four major tempo changes in the piece: slowly at m. 1, moderately at m. 21, slowly again at m. 61, then a return to Tempo I (slightly slower) at m. 66.

Cascading *legato* violin and viola melodies highlight the leisurely introduction, then the tempo quickens at m. 10, and the ensemble plays with drive and fire on the (A) melody. The violins and viola play the (A) melody with an accented foundation from the cellos and basses. At m. 18, the violins continue with the melody over open-string, double-stops in Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The (B) melody is the flowing departure from the (A) theme, which then moves to the rhythmic (C) section. This driving interlude over a pedal point sets up the return to the (A) melody.

At m. 61, the elongated (A) theme is now played majestically as the melodic rhythm and tempo slows. The final four bars are played strongly and aggressively, reiterating the original phrasing of the (A) theme. This sparks the ensemble sixteenth notes in m. 68 and the final note in m. 69 that the group plays with authority.

About the Composer

Alan Lee Silva is a composer, arranger, and orchestrator whose credits include the feature films *Cinderella 3* and Enough, and television's *7th Heaven, Brothers and Sisters,* and *Soul Collector.* He scored the independent films *Animated American, Full Moon Fables* and *Eli's Coming* and has written songs, arrangements, and background music for theme parks all over the world, including Tokyo Disney Sea, Universal Studios Japan, and Sea World's Aquatica.

Alan has enjoyed working with an eclectic mix of clients, including Disney Cruise Lines, Disney Latin America, Sesame Street, Susan Egan, The Nuclear Whales Saxophone Orchestra, and KISS. His catalogue for Concert Band and String Orchestra is published by Carl Fischer, and his contemporary jazz piece *The Flight* was a favorite on San Francisco radio stations.

Alan lives in Culver City, CA with his wife and two daughters.



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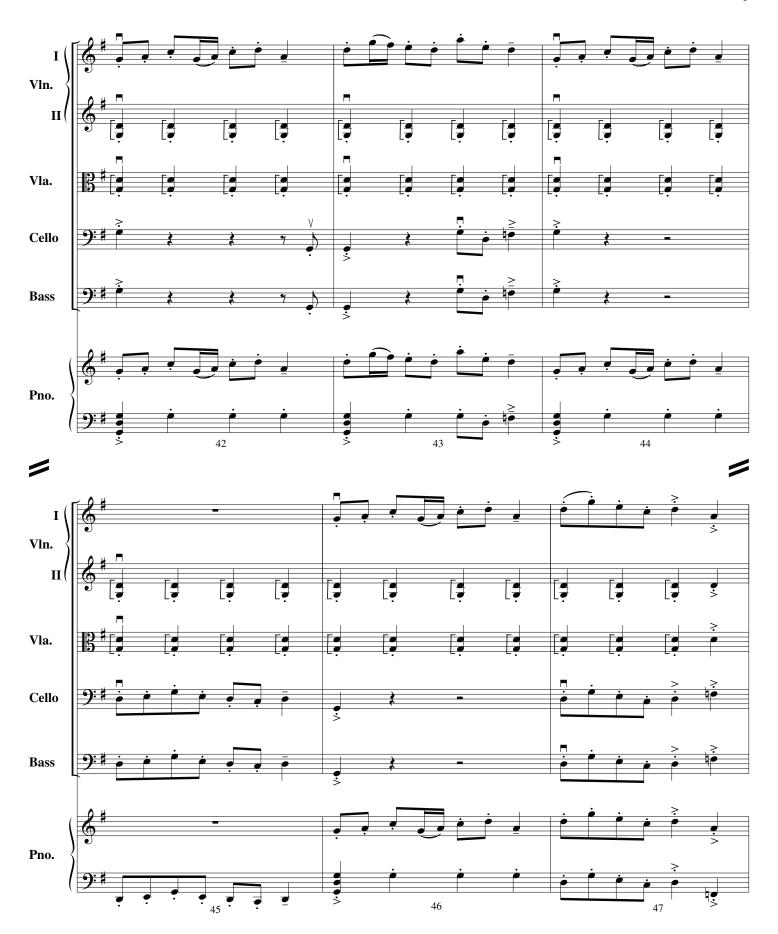


















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