**Concert String Orchestra** 

Grade 3



# The Evil Eye and the Hideous Heart

# Alan Lee Silva

#### CAS57

#### **INSTRUMENTATION**

Full Score 1
Violin I
Violin II 8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)2
Viola
Cello
Bass
Piano 1
Harp (optional)1
Percussion (optional)2
Slap Sticks, Tom-tom

#### **Program Notes**

"I admit the deed!-tear up the planks-here, here! It is the beating of his hideous heart!" —Edgar Allen Poe

Originally commissioned as a work reminiscent of a classic Hollywood horror movie theme, the piece follows the story of Edgar Allen Poe's *Telltale Heart*. An excellent literary tie-in for students who may be studying the story in Language Arts, it appeals to their sense of mystery with a delicious touch of the macabre.

The piece is based on two main ideas: the slow, ominous bass notes at the beginning—two descending half-steps followed by a major 3third; and the fast moving violin melody in E harmonic minor at m. 18. Optional harp and percussion parts are included, and the tom-tom (preferably low tom) is used to bolster the cello and bass "heart-beat" effects, starting at m. 80. The section markers outline the story as it unfolds, beginning with "The Idea" in m. 1 as the narrator contemplates his murderous plan.

The basses set the foreboding tone from the outset with their low tremolos, and the high strings add to the tension with their understated, heaving sustains. A strong accent and sustained *tremolo* from the full ensemble in m. 13, punctuates the end of the introduction and sets the deranged plan in motion.

The violins set off with the quick, frenetic melody at m. 18, then are joined with accents in the violas at m. 16 and marcato chops in the cellos and basses. Basses have snap pizzicato effects starting at m. 28. A legato respite in the high strings with cello and bass punctuations, starting at m. 39, lead to vigorous marcato playing throughout the group at m. 47. Another break in the manic action occurs at m. 63 with descending tremolos in the high strings. The suspense and tension continue at a quieter, subtler level as the basses thump out the heartbeat. The silent bar at m. 79 is the pregnant pause before the maniacal odyssey gathers ferocity and continues to the end. The heartbeat pulse in the basses slowly becomes more intense at m. 80, and the sustained notes in the rest of the ensemble now give way to a manic marcato. The fervor is at the highest point at m. 112 as the heartbeat of cellos and basses is the quickest and the sustained tremolos in the high strings are the most impassioned. Aggressive unison sixteenth notes in the violins and viola lead to a crazed ensemble tremolo at m. 115 and the final punctuation at m. 119 as the narrator's deranged journey comes to a close.

### **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.

## The Evil Eye and The Hideous Heart

Based on *The Tell Tale Heart* by Edgar Allen Poe Originally Commisioned by Lake Zurich Middle School South, Lake Zurich, Illinois

**ALAN LEE SILVA** 









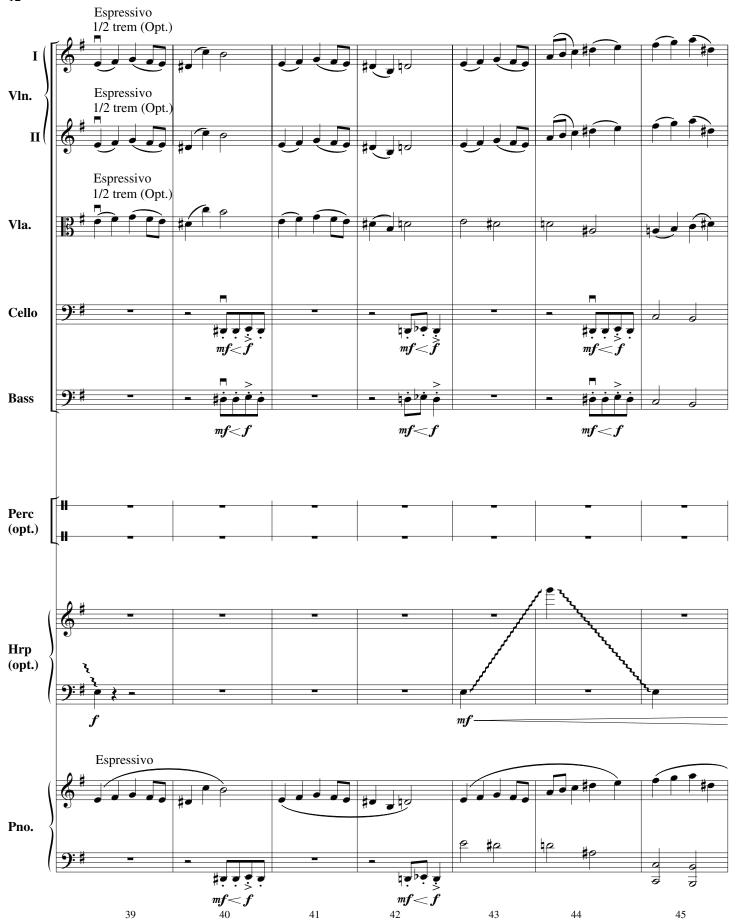










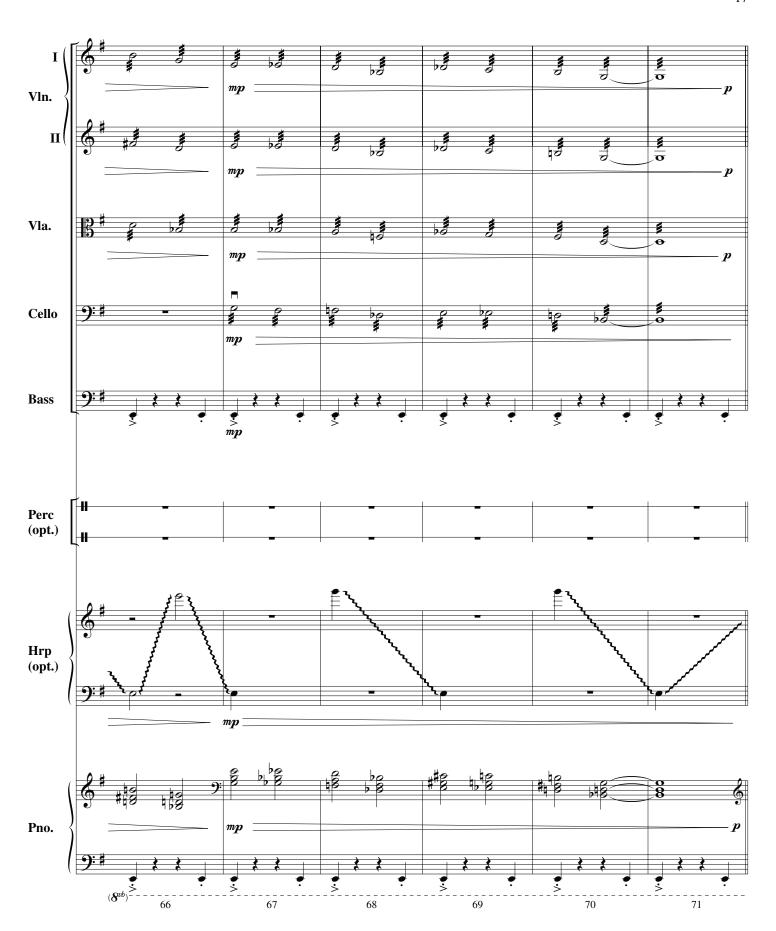






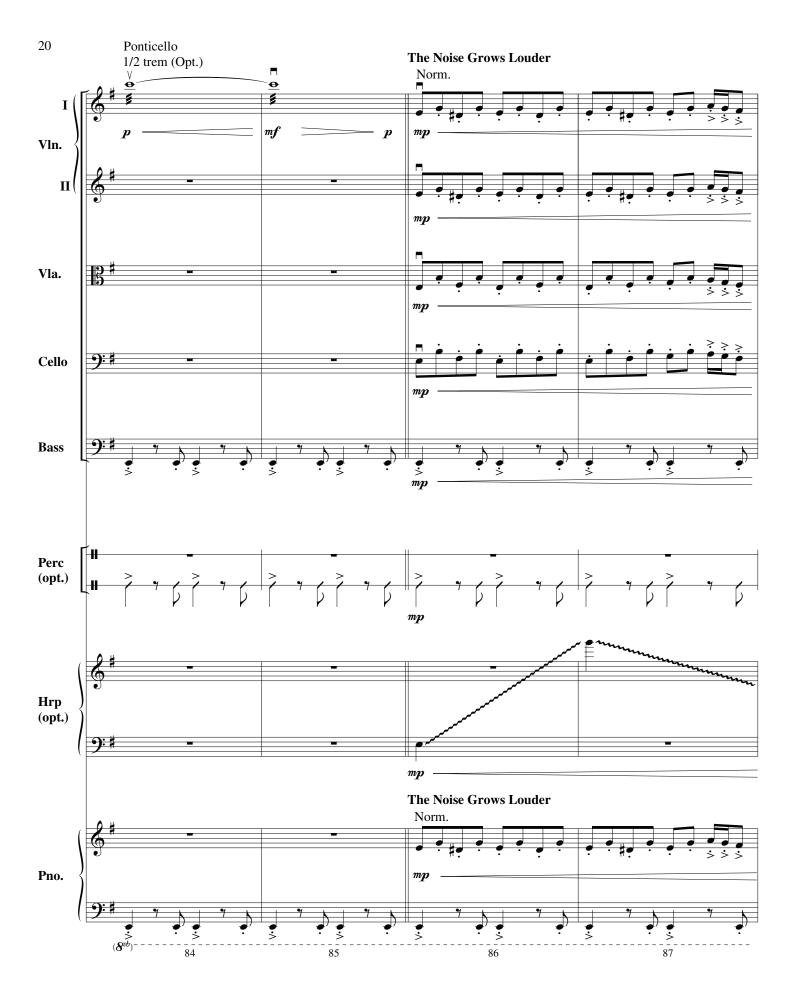














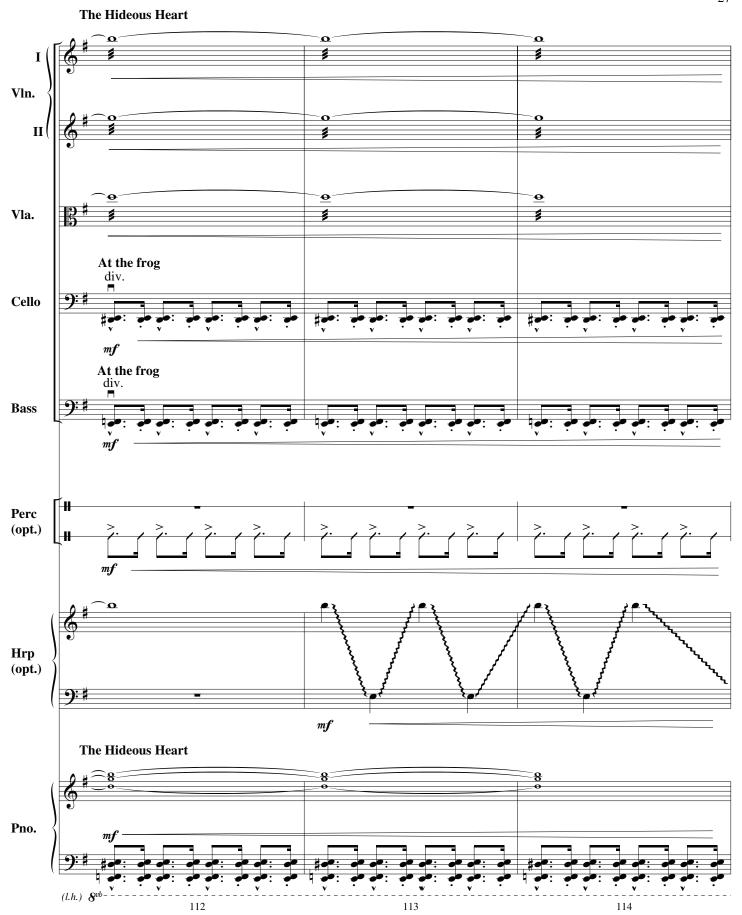














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