

FULL SCORE

Young String Orchestra

Grade 2



CARL FISCHER

PERFORMANCE

SERIES

Comet Race

Doris Gazda

YAS123

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score.....	1
Violin I.....	8
Violin II.....	8
Viola.....	5
Cello.....	5
Bass.....	5
Piano.....	1

About the Composition

If ever you are lucky enough to see a comet in the sky, you will notice that it is a bright orb encircled with a fuzzy atmosphere called a “coma” and a tail. It is composed of ice, dust and rocky particles. Comets orbit around the Sun. Both the coma and tail are illuminated by the Sun and may become visible from Earth when a comet passes through the inner solar system. The dust reflects sunlight directly and the gases glow from producing electrically charged atoms. This process is called ionization.

Greek philosophers wrote about observing comets over 2,000 years ago. Possibly the mention of “falling stars” is actually an account of seeing a comet. Most comets are too faint to be visible without the aid of a telescope, but a few each decade become bright enough to be visible to the naked eye. Several of the great named comets are Halley's Comet, Comet Kohoutek and Comet Hale-Bopp. Astronomers can determine their orbit and predict when they will next appear.

As a result of the gas surrounding the comets, they leave a trail of solid debris. If the comet's path crosses Earth's path, then at that point there are likely to be meteor showers as Earth passes through the trail of debris. The Perseid meteor shower, for example, occurs every year between August 9 and August 13, when Earth passes through the orbit of Comet Swift—Tuttle. Halley's Comet is the source of the Orionid shower in October.

Comet Race is my musical rendition of thinking about comets chasing each other as they orbit through the Earth's atmosphere. It also depicts the calmness I experience when gazing at the stars and meteor showers. I do like to think of comets as being on a fast exciting ride through the solar system that we can see occasionally by gazing at the night sky.

I hope that you will become star-gazers and enjoy some of the exciting nighttime events by watching the meteor showers and occasionally, a real comet!

About the Composer

Doris Gazda is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and Penn State University. She enjoyed many years as a string specialist in the Montgomery County, Maryland public schools, where she founded and conducted the Frederick County Youth Orchestra, and conducted the Potomac Valley Youth and Frederick Community Orchestras. Most recently, Ms. Gazda was on the faculty at Arizona State University. She has served nationally as Secretary for the American String Teachers Association, President of the National School Orchestra Association and Member-at-Large for the ASTA with NSOA.

A proponent of new music for student musicians, Ms. Gazda composes for strings and string orchestra. She is the author of *High Tech for Strings* (Carl Fischer), a set of technical studies for middle and high school orchestras, and co-author of the beginning method *Spotlight on Strings* (Neil A. Kjos). Nationally known for her leadership and expertise in string instruction, Ms. Gazda presents workshops and conducts conference and regional student orchestras. She is a frequent presenter at state and national meetings for MENC (Music Educators National Conference), ASTA (American String Teachers Association) with NSOA (National School Orchestra Association), MTNA (Music Teachers National Association), regional school systems, and string workshops.

Comet Race

Animato ♩ = 120

DORIS GAZDA

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Piano

1 2 3 4

3

mp *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

5 6 7 8 9

p

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11

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

10 11 12 13 14

19

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

f

f

f

f

f

f

p

p

p

p

p

p

arco

15 16 17 18 19

First system of musical notation, measures 20 to 24. The score includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure numbers 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24 are indicated below the piano staff. A large red watermark "Illegal to print or copy for on-screen use only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Second system of musical notation, measures 25 to 29. The score includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Bass, and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present at the beginning of measures 25, 26, 27, and 28. Measure numbers 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are indicated below the piano staff. A large red watermark "Illegal to print or copy for on-screen use only" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) play a melodic line in G major. Viola (Vla.) plays a supporting line. Cello (Cello) and Bass (Bass) provide harmonic support. Piano (Pno.) plays a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). Measure numbers 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staff.

Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) play a melodic line in G major. Viola (Vla.) plays a supporting line. Cello (Cello) and Bass (Bass) provide harmonic support. Piano (Pno.) plays a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *f* (forte). Measure numbers 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40 are indicated at the bottom of the piano staff.

44

Vln. I *p* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Cello *p* *mf*

Bass *p* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf*

41 42 43 44

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Bass *f*

Pno. *f*

45 46 47 48 49

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, Piano

Measures 50, 51, 52, 53, 54

Dynamic markings: *f*, *p*, *ff*

Rehearsal mark at measure 50.

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, Bass, Piano

Measures 55, 56, 57, 58, 59

Dynamic markings: *ff*

Rehearsal mark at measure 55.

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