

RWS DEVELOPING STRINGS SERIES

Grade: 2

Conductor Score: RWS-2582-01

War Hammer

Jeremy Smith

RWS

DEVELOPING STRINGS SERIES

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

War Hammer

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin 1	8
Violin 2	8
Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)	4
Viola	6
Cello	5
Double Bass	5
Piano (Optional)	1
Timpani	1
Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Brake Drum	1
Percussion 2: Hi-Hat, Suspended Cymbal	1

PROGRAM NOTE

War Hammer was arranged for string orchestra for the Huntsville Youth Symphony's 2023-2024 season, Alabama the Beautiful, a program celebrating the works of living Alabama composers.

The title comes from the nickname of a good friend of the composer, Paris Foreman, who was the first to encourage him to explore the world of educational music. Much like Paris, this piece is energetic, determined, and fierce.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Maintain a steady and driving tempo throughout. Use a clear, grounded beat pattern, particularly during syncopated or accented figures. Be mindful of maintaining forward momentum without losing clarity in texture—especially in repeated motifs.

The string parts feature a lot of short, accented figures. Precision and clean articulation are essential—use short, confident bow strokes. Bowings should emphasize accents and encourage players to keep energy in the bow, especially on repeated figures.

Percussion is integral to the style of the piece. Work with the players to balance timbres: brake drum and hi-hat, in particular, can easily pierce the texture.

I hope you and your ensemble enjoy working on this piece. Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Dr. Jeremy Smith is a composer, arranger, educator, and entrepreneur whose work has been widely performed by ensembles such as the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Nashville Composers Collective, the Perimeter Flute Quartet, the Huntsville Youth Orchestra, and the University of Alabama Concert Band. His music has also been featured at festivals like Sound Now and the International Duo Symposium. Beyond the concert stage, he is a sought-after collaborator across genres, working with numerous pageantry groups, including Music City Drum and Bugle Corps, Chattanooga Independent Percussion Ensemble, Bartlett High School, Clarksville Audio Theatre, Music City Winds, and the University of Alabama Million Dollar Band. His musical contributions can also be heard on the Reckon Radio podcast *Unjustifiable*, which won the National Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Podcast and was narrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Archibald. He co-owns and operates SouthCoast Music & Design LLC, a company specializing in custom marching band, indoor percussion, and indoor wind shows. His involvement with SouthCoast has led to his designing, arranging, and consulting on over 200 unique productions across over a dozen states. Currently, he serves as the music designer and percussion arranger for the Memphis Blues Drum and Bugle Corps in Memphis, TN. Jeremy resides in Florence, AL, where he is the Executive Director of the Shoals Symphony at UNA. An alumnus of the University of North Alabama, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Instrumental Music with a minor in Philosophy. Additionally, he holds a Master's in Music Theory and Composition from Middle Tennessee State University and a doctorate in Composition from the University of Alabama. He is also an adjunct professor of music at both the University of Alabama and the University of North Alabama.



For Paris Foreman

WAR HAMMER

Conductor Score
RWS-2582-00

Jeremy Smith (BMI)

Resolutely ♩ = 132

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin 3
(Viola T.C.)

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Piano
(Optional)

Timpani
E, A

Percussion 1
Snare Drum
Brake Drum

Percussion 2
Hi-Hat
Suspended Cymbal

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

2 3 4 5

WAR HAMMER

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Timp.
 Perc. 1
 Perc. 2

The musical score is for the piece "WAR HAMMER". It consists of ten staves, each representing a different instrument or section: Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, Timpani, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the entire score. The score spans measures 6 to 10. The Percussion 1 part includes dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The Percussion 2 part includes a dynamic marking of *p* (piano).

11 12 13 14 15 16

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vln. 3

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno. *mf*

Timp. *p* *f*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *p* *f* Brake Drum

Perc. 2 *p* *f* Sus. Cym. *p* *mf*

WAR HAMMER

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vln. 3
 Vla.
 Vcl.
 D.B.
 Pno.
 Timp.
 Perc. 1
 Perc. 2

17
 18
 19
 20
 21

p *mf* *p* *mf*

V
mf

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23

Vln. 1 *f*
 Vln. 2 *f*
 Vln. 3 *mf* *f*
 Vla. *mf* *f*
 Vcl. *mf* *f*
 D.B. *mf* *f*
 Pno. *mf* *f*
 Timp.
 Perc. 1 S.D. *f* *p*
 Perc. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

22 23 24 25 26

- 8 -

WAR HAMMER

Preview Only

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Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vln. 3

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

33 34 35 36 37

p *f* *p* *p* *f*

39

Score for measures 38-42, featuring the following instruments:

- Vln. 1
- Vln. 2
- Vln. 3
- Vla.
- Vcl.
- D.B.
- Pno.
- Timp.
- Perc. 1
- Perc. 2

Measure numbers are indicated at the bottom: 38, 39, 40, 41, 42.

Dynamic markings include *p* (piano) and *f* (forte).

Rehearsal mark 39 is indicated above the first staff.

47

Vln. 1 *f* *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *f* *p* *f*

Vln. 3 *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *f*

Vcl. *p* *f*

D.B. *p* *f*

Pno. *f* *p* *f*

Timp.

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *f* *p* *f*

Sus. Cym.

43 44 45 46 47 *mf*

Score for WAR HAMMER, measures 48 to 52. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B., Pno., Timp., Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 48 to 52 are shown. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). The Perc. 1 part shows a crescendo from *p* to *f* between measures 50 and 51, and a return to *p* in measure 52. Perc. 2 has a crescendo from *p* to *mf* between measures 48 and 49, and a return to *p* in measure 51.

55

53 54 55 56 57

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vln. 3 *f*

Vla. *f*

Vcl. *f*

D.B. *f*

Pno. *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 *f p f > p*

Perc. 2 H.H. *f*

Score for War Hammer, measures 58 to 62. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vln. 3, Vla., Vcl., D.B., Pno., Timp., Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is marked with dynamics *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). A large red watermark "Preview Only" is overlaid on the score.

Measures 58-62 show a transition from *p* to *f* for most instruments. Percussion 1 and 2 have specific rhythmic patterns and dynamics marked.

Measures 58, 59, 60, 61, 62