

RWS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SERIES

Grade: 4

Conductor Score: RWS-2588-01

Blackwater Canyon

Steve Parsons

Symphony Orchestra Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

Blackwater Canyon

Steve Parsons

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	Mallet Percussion: Chimes, Crotales (Opt. Bells),	
Flute 1-2.....	2	Vibraphone, Bells	4
Oboe	2	Timpani	1
B ^b Clarinet 1	1	Percussion 1: Bell Tree, Triangle, Bass Drum.....	1
B ^b Clarinet 2	1	Percussion 2: Mark Tree, Suspended Cymbal,	
B ^b Bass Clarinet.....	1	Crash Cymbals, Tam-tam	2
Bassoon.....	2	Violin I.....	8
F Horn 1-2.....	4	Violin II	8
B ^b Trumpet 1	1	Viola.....	5
B ^b Trumpet 2	1	Cello.....	5
Trombone 1.....	1	Double Bass.....	5
Trombone 2.....	1	Piano (Optional).....	1
Tuba.....	1		

PROGRAM NOTE

Sweeping, powerful, and with a strong feeling of Americana, **Blackwater Canyon** depicts a majestic wooded canyon with raging waterfalls and rock ledges. Composer Steve Parsons writes, "Among my many musical influences growing up were the uniquely North American pieces of Aaron Copland, plus the dramatic film scores of Alfred Newman and Elmer Bernstein, who in many ways defined the Hollywood 'Western' sound. With their gorgeous melodic content and open interval harmonies, it was impossible when I heard these fantastic scores not to think of our country's great vistas. I've always wanted to pay tribute in my own way. After hiking in several large state parks in my area, the unforgettable views inspired these musical ideas, calling back to the sonic influences of the past."

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

As with many pieces that seek to depict "wide-open spaces," phrasing is key. There are many long lines, and each one should be given a sense of movement and direction.

Balance will be important with all sections, as it's easy to let brass and percussion overwhelm the texture. Woodwinds and strings have many important things to say in this orchestration, so be sure they can be heard.

Always allow the more delicate mallet parts to shine through within the percussion section. I've attempted to encourage this with careful dynamic markings. Also, if crotales aren't available, I'd recommend substituting bells so that the essential color isn't lost.

While the piano adds a beautiful texture and reinforces many key lines, it can be omitted if necessary. The piece is still very playable without the piano, particularly for outdoor or other performances where a piano may not be readily available or practical.

I hope this piece inspires you and your audiences and brings to mind the breathtaking sights of our country's natural beauty! Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Steve Parsons is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director. Among his many composing credits are: Evensong (for Choir and Orchestra), Distant Thunder, Seascapes, *Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera* (Translations Art Gallery), *Visions* (an oratorio), College Slam (video game, Akklaim), and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral ensembles.

An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships and state contest lists, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals, and numerous featured works on both J.W. Pepper's "Editor's Choice" list, and Bandworld's Top 100.

Steve's musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is published by Broadway Licensing in New York and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (15 seasons), New York (Off-Off Broadway), Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City).

As an orchestrator, he has arranged the Grateful Dead musical *Cumberland Blues* (NYMF, NY), *Life Could Be A Dream* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA), *It's A Wonderful Life* (Regional), and *Footloose* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library).

His other credits include: *Nonsense and Nonsense A-Men!* (music preparation, NY), *The Tick* (member of the "Tickestra," FOX), and *Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz* (consultant and contributor, Applause Books).

Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University and is a member of ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild of America.



BLACKWATER CANYON

Conductor Score
RWS-2588-00

Steve Parsons (ASCAP)

Maestoso $\text{♩} = 86$

Flute 1-2

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

F Horn 1-2

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Tuba

Maestoso $\text{♩} = 86$

Mallet Percussion
Chimes
Crotales (Opt. Bells)
Vibraphone
Bells

Timpani
F, A, C

Percussion 1
Bell Tree
Triangle
Bass Drum

Percussion 2
Mark Tree
Suspended Cymbal
Crash Cymbals
Tam-tam

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Piano (Optional)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9

- 4 -

17

FL. 1-2

Ob.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

B. CL.

Bsn.

F Hn. 1-2

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tuba

Solo

mp

mf

17

Vibraphone

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

Mark Tree

p

pizz.

p

p

p

arco

mf

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

- 6 -

BLACKWATER CANYON

Fl. 1-2 *Tutti*
p *mp* *mf*

Ob.
mf

Clar. 1

Clar. 2
mp

B. CL.

Bsn.
p *p* *p* *p* *mp*

F Hn. 1-2
Solo
p *mp* *mf* *Tutti*

Trpt. 1
Open
mf

Trpt. 2
Open
mp

Tbn. 1
Cup Mute
p *mp*

Tbn. 2
Cup Mute
p *mp*

Tuba

Mlt.
Bells
p

Timp.
mf

Perc. 1
Ti
p *mp*

Perc. 2
Sus. Cym.
p

Vln. I
p *mp*

Vln. II
p *mp*

Vla.
p *mp*

Vcl.
pizz.
p *p* *p* *p* *mp*

D.B.
p

Pno.
p *mp*

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

- 8 -

- 9 -

BLACKWATER CANYON

Fl. 1-2

Ob.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

B. CL.

Bsn.

F Hn. 1-2

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tuba

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

rit.

65

rit.

Legal Use Required

Milt. *mp*

Timp. *fp*

Perc. 1 *mp* Bell Tree *fp* B.D. *fp*

Perc. 2 *mp* Tam-tam *mp*

Vln. I *mp* *f*

Vln. II *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vcl. *mp* pizz. *fp* arco

D.B. *mp* pizz. *fp* arco

Pno. *mp* *fp* *loco*

65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

73 a tempo

BLACKWATER CANYON

rit.

FL. 1-2

Ob.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

B. CL.

Bsn.

F Hn. 1-2

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tuba

73 a tempo

rit.

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

D.B.

Pno.

Chimes

Bell Tree

Sus. Cym.

Cr. Cym.

80 a tempo

- 13 -