



Precipice

MATT ARNETT

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Violin III (Viola T.C.)	3
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5
Piano (Rehearsal only)	1



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About the Composer

Matt Arnett graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education in April 2021 and currently teaches middle school orchestra in Fauquier County, Virginia. In 2019, Matt was recognized by the National Association for Music Education for his original brass quintet, Achilles, which was the winning submission in their annual Student Composers Contest, collegiate division. Matt was honored again in 2021 by NAFME for his composition for wind ensemble, Broken Mind, Beautiful Life.

Precipice

The term 'precipice' has two common uses, one literal and one figurative. In the literal sense, a precipice is a steep, tall rock face or cliff, the kind that makes your heart race and your mind alert as you draw nearer to the edge. From atop a precipice, any path you begin must go down, and it will be difficult, if not impossible, to turn around once you start. In the figurative sense, we say someone is 'on the precipice' when they are about to make a significant and irreversible decision. This piece embraces both meanings.

With an incessantly driving tempo, aggressive rhythms, and melodies in constant rise and fall, the music makes clear that this is a moment of intensity, when the next choice we make will have lasting consequences.

Students must maintain a strong internal pulse to keep the different rhythmic ideas properly aligned. There are also dramatic dynamic contrasts, including a *fp* moment and a true *pianississimo* (*ppp*) - barely a whisper, quieter than you can play with good tone.

Your students will greatly enjoy applying the random *glissando* sound effects that they figured out how to make on their own last year. The piece is fun and engaging, with many opportunities to develop intermediate strings skills. Don't lose your footing as you explore the *Precipice*!



mattarnettmusic.com



[@mattarnettmusic6805](https://www.youtube.com/@mattarnettmusic6805)



[@KendorMusicInc](https://www.youtube.com/@KendorMusicInc)

Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Driving ♩ = 148+

[illegible]

1 2 3 4

5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

5 6 7 8 9

11

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

mf

ppp

Pizz.

p

p

p

p

ppp

p

10 11 12 13 14

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

p

p

p

p

p

p

15 16 17 18 19 20

23

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

21 22 23 24 25 26

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

27 28 29 30 31

Score for measures 32-36, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Measures 32-36 show a progression of chords and melodic lines across the instruments.

Score for measures 37-41, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The music continues the progression from the previous system. Measures 37-41 show a continuation of the melodic and harmonic development. A large watermark 'Kendor Music Publishing Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

Measures 42-46 of the musical score. The score is for a full orchestra, including Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, Bass, Piano, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked with a 'V' (Vivace). The score shows a complex arrangement of notes and rests across five measures.

Measures 47-51 of the musical score. The score is for a full orchestra, including Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, Bass, Piano, and Double Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked with a 'V' (Vivace). The score shows a complex arrangement of notes and rests across five measures. The first measure (47) is marked with a box containing the number 47. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

1. 2.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

52 53 54 55 56

60

Start high, gliss up

Start high, gliss up

Start high, gliss up

Pizz.

mp

p

Pizz.

mp

p

57 58 59 60 61

Two short glissandos

Start high, gliss down

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

Pizz.

f

p

Arco

Start high, gliss down

Arco

Start high, gliss down

62 63 64 65 66 67

68

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

Arco

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

68 69 70 71 72 73

76

Score for measures 74-78, measures 76-78 are shown. Instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 76 is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score includes a large double bar line with repeat dots on both sides, indicating a section boundary.

82

Score for measures 79-83, measures 82-83 are shown. Instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, Pno.

Measure 82 is marked with a fortissimo (*fp*) dynamic. The score includes a large double bar line with repeat dots on both sides, indicating a section boundary.

Score for measures 84-88, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The music is in D major and 4/4 time. Dynamics range from *mp* to *ff*. The Cello and Bass parts include glissando markings on the G and A strings.

Measures 84-88 are marked with dynamic changes: *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The Cello and Bass parts feature glissando markings on the G and A strings, with dynamics *ff* and *f*.

Score for measures 89-93, featuring Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, Bass, and Pno. The music continues in D major and 4/4 time. Dynamics range from *mp* to *f*. The Cello and Bass parts continue with glissando markings on the G and A strings.

Measures 89-93 are marked with dynamic changes: *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The Cello and Bass parts continue with glissando markings on the G and A strings, with dynamics *ff* and *f*.

98

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

94 95 96 97 98

Start high, gliss down

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

Pno.

99 100 101 102 103 104