

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 2½
Full Conductor Score
SO501F

Ron Castonguay
Sunrise
for String Orchestra and Piano



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



The Composer



An innovative music educator and accomplished musician, composer, conductor, clinician, author, and performer, **Ron Castonguay** was named Director of the Arts and Music Director at The Frederick Gunn School (Connecticut) in 2019. Ron teaches all levels of string ensemble/chamber orchestra, vocal ensemble and jazz band as well as AP Music Theory, and provides private music instruction. He is responsible for the leadership and development of the school's Visual and Performing Arts programs and champions the growth and integration of the arts and community through the new Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center. As a result of these efforts, the school has developed collaborations and maintains partnerships with local arts organizations, including Pilobolus, Sherman Chamber Ensemble, Washington Friends of Music, the Litchfield Jazz Festival, and Litchfield Jazz Camp. Additionally, Ron serves as a Director on the board of the Washington Friends of Music.

Prior to his arrival at Gunn, Ron served for 23 years as Department Chair for the Performing Arts and Music Director for grades 9 through 12 at Gulliver Preparatory School in Miami, Florida. There, he created and directed the school's String Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, and Vocal Ensemble. His ensembles performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, the Strathmore Center for the Performing Arts, and other notable venues, consistently earning top marks at district, state, and national music festivals.

Ron holds a bachelor's degree in music theory and composition from the University of Miami (Florida). He is a professional saxophonist, experienced conductor, and published composer of repertoire and method books. His compositions have been performed numerous times and span a wide array of ensemble genres, from instrumental to choral, and in all musical idioms, from classical to contemporary to jazz.

Ron has been, or is currently, an active member of the National Association for Music Education, American String Teachers Association, Connecticut Music Educators' Association, Jazz Education Network, Florida Orchestra Association, Florida Vocal Association, Florida Bandmasters' Association, Florida Music Educators' Association, Florida American String Teachers Association, and the Florida Schools Music Association.

As a saxophonist, Ron has released two self-produced CDs of original music in the contemporary jazz genre; 1998's *Subtle Touch* and *On The Right Track*, released in 2008. Ron's music is available on Pandora, Spotify, iTunes, and CDBaby. He performs live as a solo artist as well as a member of a jazz duo called Perfect Manhattan, and two jazz/blues/funk bands called Front Burner and The Roxtones.

Ron resides in Washington, CT, with his wife, Melissa, and their two daughters, Siena and Summer.

For more information about Ron Castonguay, visit: <http://roncastonguay.com>.

The Composition

Sunrise is a programmatic work intended to depict the beauty and power of a sunrise, specifically in the spring. The music was composed in loving memory of Noah Ram, class of 2023, a high school musician who tragically lost his life in a car accident just before the start of his senior year. Noah was an avid multi-instrumentalist whose principal instruments were piano, guitar, trumpet, and string bass. It is my hope that this music honors the memory of Noah. The metaphors and symbolism inherent in a sunrise allow performers and listeners of this music the ability to interpret the melodies and harmonies on a personal level. May this music lift the spirits of all those who have lost a loved one far too soon and bring feelings of hopefulness and gratefulness with each new sunrise.

- Ron Castonguay

Rehearsal Suggestions

Sunrise is written to be accessible by most string orchestras and works well for chamber ensembles with piano. The piano part is an essential voice in this work and can be performed by an adult or student musician. The opening phrase introspectively begins on an up bow for upper strings and cello. Although the basses have a down-bow marking in measure 1, they can also begin with an up bow and then adjust as needed. To have all strings open the piece on an up bow will assure a beautiful depiction of the first light of sunrise. At measure 30, the richest part of the sunrise arrives, and bow strokes should be legato and with a deliberate pesante quality. Players need to use full bows, placing appropriate weight on the strings with contact points that are closer to the bridge. The accelerando beginning in measure 41 should accelerate quickly and arrive at 72-74bpm by measure 43. The ritardando on beats 3 and 4 of measure 47 should be dramatic, returning the music to the original tempo at measure 48. The last three measures of the piece should incorporate the molto rallentando while allowing the 1st Violin melody line to come through right up to the final chord, where the 1st Violin ultimately lands on the third of the major triad, representing the completion of a gorgeous sunrise. Dynamics and phrasing should be adhered to throughout, while always bringing out moving lines.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

8 – 1st Violin
 8 – 2nd Violin
 5 – 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
 5 – Viola
 5 – Cello
 5 – String Bass
 1 – Piano
 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, go to www.kjos.com.

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Sunrise

for String Orchestra and Piano

Full Conductor Score

Approx. performance time—4:00

Ron Castonguay

Adagio e Legato (♩ = 60)

Violins 1
Violins 2
Viola*
Cello
String Bass
Piano

Adagio e Legato (♩ = 60)

mp dolce, pedal freely throughout

5 6 7 8

Vlins.
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Pno.

*A part for 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.) is included.

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9 10 11 12

Vlns. 1 *mp*

Vlns. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Cello *mp* *mf* *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

Pno. *mp*

13 14 15 16

Vlns. 1 *mf* *f* *p*

Vlns. 2 *mf* *f* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mf*

Cello *mf* *f* *mp*

Str. Bass *mf* *f*

Pno. *mf* *f* *mp*

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score includes parts for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, String Bass (Str. Bass), and Piano (Pno.).

- Measures 17-18:** Violins and Viola play eighth notes. Cello and Str. Bass play a half note. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *mf*.
- Measure 18:** Violins and Viola play a half note. Cello and Str. Bass play a half note. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *f*.
- Measures 19-20:** Violins and Viola play a half note. Cello and Str. Bass play a half note. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *f*. Str. Bass includes a *pizz.* marking and an *arco* marking.

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score includes parts for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, String Bass (Str. Bass), and Piano (Pno.).

- Measure 21:** Violins and Viola play eighth notes. Cello and Str. Bass play eighth notes. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *mf legato*.
- Measure 22:** Violins and Viola play eighth notes. Cello and Str. Bass play eighth notes. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *f legato*.
- Measure 23:** Violins and Viola play eighth notes. Cello and Str. Bass play eighth notes. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *mp*.
- Measure 24:** Violins and Viola play eighth notes. Cello and Str. Bass play eighth notes. Pno. plays chords. Dynamics: *mf*.

25 with building intensity

1 Vlns. *subito p* *cresc. poco a poco*

2 Vlns. *subito p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *subito p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Cello *subito p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Str. Bass *subito p* *cresc. poco a poco*

25 with building intensity

Pno. *subito p* *cresc. poco a poco*

30 legato e pesante

1 Vlns. *ff*

2 Vlns. *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Cello *ff*

Str. Bass *ff*

30 legato e pesante

Pno. *ff*

34 35 36 37

Vlns. 1 *mp*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass

Pno. *mp*

38 39 40 41 42

Vlns. 1 *f* *mf*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f* *mp*

Str. Bass *mf* *f* *mp* arco

Pno. *f* *mp*

pizz.

poco rit. *a tempo* **41** *accel.*

43 44 45 46

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass

Pno.

47 48 49 50 51

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p* *mf*

Str. Bass *p*

Pno. *p*

molto rit. **48** *a tempo*

Musical score for measures 52-55. The score includes parts for Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Piano. Measures 52-53 feature a dynamic shift from *mf* to *f*. Measure 54 includes a *V* marking. Measure 55 includes *V* markings above the violin staves. The piano part features a *f* dynamic.

Musical score for measures 56-58. The score includes parts for Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Piano. Measure 56 is marked *molto rall.* and *mp*. Measure 57 includes a *div.* marking above the first violin staff and *pp* below the second violin staff. Measure 58 includes *pp* below the second violin staff. The piano part is marked *mp* and *molto rall.*

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