

# Assemble the Guard

For String Orchestra, Grade 1  
by Di3n Morales (ASCAP)

## Instrumentation

1 - Full Score  
8 - Violin 1  
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)  
5 - Viola  
5 - Cello  
5 - Bass  
1 - Rehearsal Piano  
2 - Optional Percussion (Low Tom)\*

## Note from the Editor:

In this grade 1 work the Violin 2 and Viola double, as do the Cello and Bass.

All parts use a limited 6 note range of D to B, except the First Violins who also venture to High D and Open E.

Though optional, the Low Tom part adds to the color of the piece.

\*A free downloadable percussion track is available at [randallstandridge.com](http://randallstandridge.com).

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - \$55.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



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# Assemble the Guard

By Di3n Morales, Grade 1

## Program Notes:

As an avid enthusiast of fantasy and sci-fi narratives, I consistently find inspiration for my compositions within these imaginative worlds. In many of these stories there are attacks on castles or fortresses, where the guards need to quickly gather to protect their home; but in most of these stories these guards are faceless. They are not the main characters of the story, but without them the castle would be overrun! What unknown force are these guards preparing against? You decide! It's an open canvas for interpretation, allowing for creative exploration and story development with your students.

In my mind, these guardians are gearing up for the imminent arrival of the Alpha Dragon, a formidable presence introduced in another piece of mine titled *Dragon's Revenge* (Gr. 2 - available through Randall Standridge Music). The connection between these compositions adds to the narrative of the broader musical universe I'm creating through my music.

## Performance Notes:

STOMP! - Starting in m. 41 this piece features several big stomps. This should be done with only one foot in order to maintain physical balance. Additionally, have students try with one foot and then the other to figure out which is most comfortable for them. For my students, a majority of them preferred using their left, but that was not unanimous. You may need to work on body coordination to perform these stomps on time, so I suggest practicing each stomp with its coordinating musical material separately.

Percussion - The percussion part included in this score is at a grade 1 level. This could be an opportunity for collaboration with a band colleague or you could have one of your students perform it. Another option is to download and play along with the percussion backing track from the Randall Standridge Music page for *Assemble the Guard* in rehearsal or as a home practice track (aka metronome!) for students.

Accents - This piece has lots of accented notes. The bow should make solid contact with the string before each stroke in order to create a powerful beginning to these notes.

- Di3n Morales



## About the Composer

Di3n (pronounced: dee-own) Morales was born, raised, and lives in Chicago, Illinois with his wife and two daughters. He began his orchestral studies as a high school student at Lane Tech College Prep High School in the Chicago Public School system. He received his undergraduate degree in music education from VanderCook College of Music in 2010 and returned to VanderCook for his Masters degree, which was completed in 2021. He has taught elementary and middle school orchestra in Des Plaines District 62 since 2010. The arranging of music by minority composers for school orchestra programs is a project that he has been developing since 2020. Music from this project has been performed at the Midwest Band and Orchestra clinic and has won multiple awards.

Alongside his arrangements, Dion is also passionate about writing original works for student ensembles at all levels. As an educator and composer he has used his experience in the classroom to create pieces that students enjoy as well as providing appropriate challenges for ensembles at various levels.

Di3n is married to Devon Morales. She is the department chair and head orchestra director at Lane Tech, as well as a fellow composer and arranger.

# Assemble the Guard

Score  
Grade 1  
Duration 2:05

Dión Morales  
(ASCAP)

**Boldly** ♩ = 116

The musical score is written for a chamber ensemble. The first system includes Violin 1, Violin 2 (Viola T.C.), Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Rehearsal Piano, and Opt. Percussion (Low Tom). The second system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins with a 4-measure introduction marked *f*. The first system contains measures 1 through 5, with dynamics *f* and *p*. The second system contains measures 6 through 10, with dynamics *f* and *p*. A rehearsal mark '9' is placed above measure 9. The score concludes with a final measure marked *f*.

Musical score for measures 11 through 15. The score is written for a full orchestra, including Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked with a 'V' (Vivace). The percussion part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes. The piano part has a steady accompaniment. The strings play a melodic line with accents.

Measures 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

Musical score for measures 16 through 20. The score continues with the same instrumentation. Measure 17 is marked with a box containing the number 17. The score includes dynamic markings: *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The percussion part has a 'STOMP!' instruction. The piano part has a 'p' marking. The strings have a 'f' marking. The percussion part has a 'f' marking. The piano part has a 'p' marking. The strings have a 'f' marking. The percussion part has a 'f' marking.

Measures 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

## 3

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Piano

Percussion

21 22 23 24 25

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

26 27 28 29 30

## Assemble the Guard - Score

33

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.) parts for measures 31 through 35. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *arco* (arco). Measure numbers 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 are indicated below the staves.

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), and Percussion (Perc.) parts for measures 36 through 40. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *arco* (arco). Measure numbers 36, 37, 38, 39, and 40 are indicated below the staves.

41

STOMP!

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

41 42 43 44 45

49

*mf* *f*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55

57

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

This musical system contains measures 51 through 55. It features six staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measures 51-52 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. Measures 53-55 continue this pattern with some rests and dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo) appearing in measures 54 and 55. A box containing the number 57 is positioned above measure 52.

56 57 58 59 60

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

Perc.

This musical system contains measures 56 through 60. It features the same six staves as the previous system. Measures 56-57 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. Measures 58-60 continue this pattern with some rests and dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo) appearing in measures 58 and 59. A box containing the number 57 is positioned above measure 57.