

# Ready the Castle

For String Orchestra, Grade 1.5  
by JaRod Hall (ASCAP)

## Instrumentation

1 - Full Score  
8 - Violin 1  
8 - Violin 2  
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)  
5 - Viola  
5 - Cello  
5 - Bass  
1 - Rehearsal Piano

## Note from the Editor:

This piece teaches 6/8 time at a grade 1.5 level by only using simple rhythms:  
groups of three 8th notes, dotted quarter notes, and dotted half notes.  
It is written in e minor and stays mainly on the D and G strings, avoiding any low 2s.  
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - \$55.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



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# Ready the Castle

By JaRod Hall, Grade 1.5

## Program Notes:

*Ready the Castle* is a musical journey that transports listeners to a medieval battlefield. The piece is set in the key of e minor and features a lively 6/8 time signature, giving it an exhilarating forward-bounding momentum.

At the beginning, powerful low strings shake the castle walls, signaling an attack. As the upper strings soar in the following section, listeners can almost hear the rush of the moat waters and the creak of the drawbridge lifting as the castle prepares for war, rallying the troops to defend their fortress.

The battle rages on as the low strings drive the rhythmic pulse forward, while the upper strings weave catchy melodic lines into the fray, slowly building to a triumphant closing section in G Major. The final chord rings out, signaling the end of the battle and victory for the castle's defenders.

- JaRod Hall

## Educational features:

- Introduction to 6/8 time using only dotted quarters, dotted half notes and groups of 3 eighth notes.
- Variety of articulation – marcato, legato, détaché and accents.

## About the Composer



JaRod Hall (b. 1991) is a Texas-native educator, performer, and composer. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas, where he studied conducting with Nicholas Williams and Dennis Fisher. JaRod's bands have received consistent sweepstakes awards at the Texas University Interscholastic League Concert and Sightreading Evaluations, as well as being recognized at the state level. In 2018 and 2019, JaRod's bands at Griffin Middle School earned the Citation of Excellence award, honoring the top two non-varsity bands in the state of Texas. Under his leadership, the R. L. Turner Marching Band in Carrollton, TX received 1st divisions and advanced to the Area Marching Contest for the first time in almost a decade; his Varsity band at Sam Houston Middle School in Irving, Texas received the unanimous 1st division ratings from all UIL judges for the first time in the school's history; his Varsity band at Hobby Middle School in San Antonio, TX achieved the same feat for the first time in five years.

JaRod is a tuba and trombone player by trade and has been a part of many esteemed ensembles, such as the North Texas Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band, 3 O' Clock Lab Band, Carrollton Wind Symphony, and Metropolitan Winds. During his time in high school, JaRod made the Texas All-State Band for all four years of his eligibility - the first three years of which were on tuba, eventually earning 1st chair Jazz Bass Trombone in the state his fourth and final year. He served as drum major for the 2013 Crossmen Drum and Bugle Corps and was a member of the 2014 Disneyland All-American College Band.

As a composer, JaRod's compositions appear on the Texas Prescribed Music List, The J.W. Pepper "Editor's Choice" list, and the Bandworld Top 100 list. His composition *Lost Woods Fantasy* was showcased at the 73rd annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago by the Berkner High School Band, composed of the first students JaRod taught as a band director in Richardson ISD. His composition "Silver Fanfare" was selected as a winner of the Dallas Winds Call for Fanfares, and "Through the Storm" was selected as the 2021 Barbara Buehlman Prize winner for middle school band - commissioned by David Puckett and the Keller Middle School Band, premiered for Midwest by Robert Herrings the Artie Henry Middle School Band. Additionally, JaRod is a nationwide marching band and WGI arranger and consultant.

JaRod is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Composition at Texas State University. He resides in San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Rachel (the smart one in the family), who is a medical student at the University of Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine.

# Ready the Castle

Score  
Grade 1.5  
Duration 1:45

JaRod Hall  
(ASCAP)

**Maestoso** ♩. = 108

Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Cello  
Double Bass  
Rehearsal Piano

*f marcato*

1 2 3 4 5 6

9

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
D.B.  
Reh. Pno.

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

## Ready the Castle - Score

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. (Rehearsal Piano) score for measures 14 through 19.

Measures 14-19 show a rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 14 includes a 'V' marking above the first violin staff. Measure 15 includes fingerings '3' and '2' above the second violin staff and '2' above the viola staff. Measure 17 includes a 'V' marking above the first violin staff. Measure 19 includes a 'V' marking above the first violin staff.

21

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. (Rehearsal Piano) score for measures 20 through 26.

Measures 20-26 show a continuation of the rhythmic pattern. The key signature is one sharp (F#). Measure 20 includes a 'V' marking above the first violin staff. Measure 21 includes a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking below the first violin staff, a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking below the viola staff, and an 'mp' (mezzo-piano) dynamic marking below the violoncello staff. Measure 25 includes a 'V' marking above the first violin staff.

# Ready the Castle - Score

3

29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Reh. Pno.

27 28 29 30 31 32 33

37

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Reh. Pno.

34 35 36 37 38 39

## Ready the Castle - Score

45

Vln. 1  
 Vln. 2  
 Vla.  
 Vc.  
 D.B.  
 Reh. Pno.

40 41 42 43 44 45 46

Vln. 1  
 Vln. 2  
 Vla.  
 Vc.  
 D.B.  
 Reh. Pno.

47 48 49 50 51 52

\*div - only divide in absence of basses, otherwise all play top

53

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. parts for measures 53 to 58. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *legato*. The Reh. Pno. part includes a *ped (ad lib)* marking.

Measures 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58

61

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. parts for measures 59 to 64. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo/mood is marked *f* (forte) and *p* (piano) *détaché* (detached). The Reh. Pno. part includes a *ped (ad lib)* marking and a *\*div.* (divisi) marking.

Measures 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. score for measures 65 to 70.

Measures 65-70 show a crescendo (cresc.) leading into a mezzo-forte (mf) section. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts feature a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. The Reh. Pno. part features a melodic line with accents and slurs.

Measures 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. score for measures 71 to 76.

Measure 73 is marked with a box containing the number 73. Measures 71-76 show a forte (f) marcato section. The Violin 1 and Violin 2 parts feature a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. The Reh. Pno. part features a melodic line with accents and slurs.

Measures 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76



81

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. (Rehearsal Piano) score for measures 77 through 82. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *non div.* (non diviso).

Measures 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Reh. Pno. (Rehearsal Piano) score for measures 83 through 88. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo).

Measures 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88