

The Kraken

For String Orchestra, Grade 3
by Kevin Sluder

Instrumentation

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

Note from the Editor:

This programmatic grade 3 piece opens with a slow introduction that leads to an energetic main theme.

*A Cello 2 part that doubles the Bass is available as a free download at randallstandridge.com.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$65.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$12.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



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By Kevin Sluder, Grade 3

Program Notes:

A frightening tale for all who sail across the sea, the Kraken is storied to be a massive squid that lurks in the deep waters of the ocean.

Our adventure opens with a churning sea. Waves become more violent as the sky grows darker. Suddenly, giant tentacles reach out through the tumultuous waters...the Kraken appears! Tentacles swat at the ship, sliding along the hull as they try to grip the boat. Sailors fight the hurricane winds to turn the ship away from the grips of the Kraken. The boat is finally free, but only momentarily. The Kraken has followed! Sailors race to grab harpoons, long spears meant to protect the ship from the creatures that lie below. As the harpoons fly, the Kraken finally retreats, leaving the ship safe to find dry land. The creature slinks below the waters, waiting for the next ship to sail in its path.

Notes to the Conductor:

Spend time early on breaking down the 8th note syncopations and the necessary subdivision internalization. Suggested shifting fingerings are provided, and while the bass can spend most of the piece in $\frac{1}{2}$ position, more advanced options are encouraged. Work with students to take dynamics and accents to the extreme, imitating the sound of the waves crashing against the ship. The glissandos should be deliberate and dramatic. The doubles (slashes) are optional, but are highly-encouraged. For m. 91 to the end, remind the students that oftentimes divisi will lose some of the power than comes with purely unison parts. Teach them to raise their individual dynamic level when it splits to help keep the group from losing impact right near the end. Feel free to teach the kids how an F# sometimes plays a colorful role in the key of D minor. A Picardy third slowly invades this exciting conclusion!

Most importantly, enjoy telling this tale with your students!

– Kevin Sluder



About the Composer

Kevin Sluder is a Texas string orchestra director in the DFW area and has been teaching in the public school system since 2007. His middle school program in Frisco, TX was named the 2024 TMEA JH/MS Full Honor Orchestra.

Born and raised in Mansfield, TX, Mr. Sluder obtained his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas in Denton. A bass player by trade, he also has experience in percussion and guitar, with a deep love of rhythm.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Sluder spends a great deal of time composing and arranging music. He also runs two podcasts. *Rite of String*, co-hosted with Matthew Moreno, focuses on string education. *SluderMusic* is a showcase of Mr. Sluder's published pieces. In addition to his work in the "classical" world, he has written and recorded several rock/electronic albums that are available on most streaming services.

Mr. Sluder currently resides in McKinney, TX. In his limited spare time, he enjoys taking naps, camping, and playing video games.

The Kraken

Score
Grade 3
Duration 3:30

Kevin Sluder

The Churning Sea ♩ = 85

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

fp

p

pp

mf

1 2 3 4 5 6

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

più mosso

mf

mp

mf

mp

7 8 9 10 11 12

rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 The Kraken Appears ♩ = 132

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

19 20 21 22 23

27

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

24 25 26 27 28

mf *f*

(V)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

29 30 31 32 33

sub. *p* cresc. *f*

sub. *p* cresc. *f*

sub. *p* cresc. *f*

sub. *p* cresc. *f*

-1

35 In the Grips of the Tentacles

Score for measures 34 to 38, titled "In the Grips of the Tentacles". The score is for five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat).

Measure 34: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a whole rest. Vla. has a whole rest. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 35: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 36: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 37: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 38: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

42 A Momentary Escape

Score for measures 39 to 43, titled "A Momentary Escape". The score is for five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat).

Measure 39: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 40: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 41: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 42: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Measure 43: Vln. 1 has a whole note G4. Vln. 2 has a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Vla. has a quarter note G3, quarter note A3, quarter note B3, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3. Vc. has a whole note G2. D.B. has a whole note G2.

Musical score for measures 44-47, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 44: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest followed by a 0-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 45: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 46: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 47: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes.

51 The Re-Emergence

Musical score for measures 48-52, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 48: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 49: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 50: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 51: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes. Measure 52: Vln. 1 has a 4-measure rest; Vln. 2 has a 4-measure rest; Vla. has a 4-measure rest; Vc. and D.B. have whole notes.

59 The Kraken Gives Chase

RSMS035

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.) staves, measures 61 to 65. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and fingerings (e.g., -1, -2, -3, 4).

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.) staves, measures 66 to 69. The score includes dynamic markings (*mf*, *f*, *ff*) and performance instructions (e.g., *div.*, *opt. -2*). Measure 67 is highlighted with a box.

77 Letting the Harpoons Fly

77 Letting the Harpoons Fly

Vln. 1
ff
 Measures 74-78: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Measure 74: quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5 (accents). Measure 75: quarter notes Bb4, A4, G4, F#4 (accents). Measure 76: whole note G4 (accents), then quarter notes F#4, E4 (accents). Measure 77: whole note D4 (accents), then quarter notes C4, Bb4 (accents). Measure 78: quarter notes A4, G4 (accents). Fingerings: 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4.

Vln. 2
ff
 Measures 74-78: Treble clef, key of B-flat major. Measure 74: quarter notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5 (accents). Measure 75: quarter notes Bb4, A4, G4, F#4 (accents). Measure 76: whole note G4 (accents), then quarter notes F#4, E4 (accents). Measure 77: whole note D4 (accents), then quarter notes C4, Bb4 (accents). Measure 78: quarter notes A4, G4 (accents). Fingerings: 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4.

Vla.
 Measures 74-78: Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Measure 74: quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, C4 (accents). Measure 75: quarter notes Bb3, A3, G3, F#3 (accents). Measure 76: whole note G3 (accents), then quarter notes F#3, E3 (accents). Measure 77: whole note D3 (accents), then quarter notes C3, Bb3 (accents). Measure 78: quarter notes A3, G3 (accents). Fingerings: 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4.

Vc.
ff
 Measures 74-78: Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Measure 74: quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, C4 (accents). Measure 75: quarter notes Bb3, A3, G3, F#3 (accents). Measure 76: whole note G3 (accents), then quarter notes F#3, E3 (accents). Measure 77: whole note D3 (accents), then quarter notes C3, Bb3 (accents). Measure 78: quarter notes A3, G3 (accents). Fingerings: 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4.

D.B.
ff
 Measures 74-78: Bass clef, key of B-flat major. Measure 74: quarter notes G3, A3, Bb3, C4 (accents). Measure 75: quarter notes Bb3, A3, G3, F#3 (accents). Measure 76: whole note G3 (accents), then quarter notes F#3, E3 (accents). Measure 77: whole note D3 (accents), then quarter notes C3, Bb3 (accents). Measure 78: quarter notes A3, G3 (accents). Fingerings: 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4, 2, 3, 4.

Music score for measures 79-82, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure numbers 79, 80, 81, and 82 are indicated below the staves.

86 The Wounded Creature Retreats

Music score for measures 83-87, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure numbers 83, 84, 85, 86, and 87 are indicated below the staves. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte). Vln. 1 has a crescendo leading to *f* in measure 86. Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. have *mp* dynamics in measures 84-85 and *f* in measure 86, then return to *mp* in measure 87. Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. have rests marked (V) in measure 86.

91 Fleeing to Dry Land

Score for measures 88-91, titled "Fleeing to Dry Land". The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 88 features a forte (*f*) dynamic for all instruments. Measure 89 includes a 4-measure rest for Vln. 2, a half note for Vla. and Vc., and a half note for D.B., all marked *mp*. Measure 90 continues with the same dynamics. Measure 91 returns to a forte (*f*) dynamic for all instruments. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, along with dynamic markings and articulation symbols.

Score for measures 92-95. The score is for five instruments: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 92 features a forte (*f*) dynamic for all instruments. Measure 93 includes a 4-measure rest for Vln. 2, a half note for Vla. and Vc., and a half note for D.B., all marked *mp*. Measure 94 continues with the same dynamics. Measure 95 returns to a forte (*f*) dynamic for all instruments. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, along with dynamic markings and articulation symbols.

Measures 96-99 of the score. The staves are Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). Measure 96 shows a steady eighth-note pattern in all parts. Measure 97 introduces a 'div.' (divisi) instruction for the strings, with Vln. 2 and Vla. playing a half-note melody. Measure 98 continues the patterns. Measure 99 shows the continuation of the eighth-note patterns.

96

97

98

99

Measures 100-103 of the score. The staves are Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Measure 100 continues the patterns from the previous page. Measure 101 introduces 'cresc.' (crescendo) markings for Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B., and a 'div.' instruction for Vln. 1. Measure 102 continues the crescendo. Measure 103 features a forte (*ff*) dynamic marking for all parts, with a final flourish in the strings.

100

cresc.

101

102

ff

103