

# We Rise

## (By Lifting Others)

For String Orchestra, Grade 2  
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 grade 2 piece is the perfect introduction to High 3rd finger / forward extensions. Written primarily using a one octave A Major scale, it keeps violins, violas, and cellos in the same handshape for the entire piece. Bases will explore shifting to 3rd position on the D string and crossing to  $\frac{1}{2}$  position on the G string for G sharp.

\* A Cello 2 part (alternate to bass) is available as a free download at [randallstandridge.com](http://randallstandridge.com)  
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

**Full Set - \$60.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



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# We Rise (By Lifting Others)

By Kevin Sluder, Grade 2

## Program Notes:

As we all try to make our mark on the world, it is tempting to simply focus on the self. We spend a great deal of time and energy trying to “get ahead” and succeed on an individual level. However, the only way we move forward as a society, a community, and even a string ensemble, is to lift each other up. No organization truly succeeds because of only a handful of great members. It is the responsibility of us all to help one another and grow as a group.

In this inspirational 3/4 piece, the key of A major requires young students to “raise” certain pitches higher than they are used to. The techniques involved necessitate rising to a new challenge, but together, we can do anything!

## Note to the Conductor

Too often, pieces with more than two sharps (or flats) don’t occur until there are many other technical/musical challenges alongside. *We Rise! (By Lifting Others)* is an introduction to A major (using primarily a single octave) that sticks to simple 3/4 rhythms, so that the main focus can be on the unique tuning challenges of the key signature. Spend some time as a class on the A Major scale and arpeggio. The violins and violas will need to pay special attention to the “high 3” on the G and D strings. Cellos will need solid extensions, making sure to keep the thumb underneath the 2nd finger in order to support the 1st and 4th fingers equally. Give the basses some love and show them that sometimes the G# should be in 1/2 position on the G string, and sometimes it should be in 3rd position on the D string, depending on the context.

– 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 with his wife (and fellow Orchestra director), Bethany Hardwick. In his limited spare time, he enjoys taking naps, camping, and playing video games.

# We Rise (By Lifting Others)

Score  
Grade 2  
Duration 3:00

Kevin Sluder

Inspired ♩ = 78

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola  
(Violin 3)

Cello

Double Bass  
(Cello 2)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

9

poco rit.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pp mp p mf mp

pp mp p mf mp

pp mp p mf mp

3rd pos 1st pos

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

**Più mosso** ♩ = 84 17

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

22 23 24 25 26 27

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.) staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The music spans measures 28 to 33. Measure numbers 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 are indicated below the staves. A large watermark "Randall Standridge Music" is visible across the page.



Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.) staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is 4/4. The music spans measures 34 to 39. Measure numbers 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39 are indicated below the staves. A large watermark "Randall Standridge Music" is visible across the page.



42

Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts are in treble clef with key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef with key signature of three sharps. Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D.B.) are in bass clef with key signature of three sharps.

Measures 40-45 are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measures 42 and 43 include a *x2* marking above the Vc. staff. Measures 44 and 45 include a *-4* marking above the D.B. staff.

51

Measures 46-52 continue the orchestration. Measures 46-48 include a *H3* marking above the Vln. 1 staff and a *4* marking above the Vln. 2 staff. Measures 49-50 include a *x2* marking above the Vc. staff and a *x4* marking above the Vc. staff. Measures 51-52 include a *mp* marking above the Vln. 1 staff and a *p* marking above the Vc. staff.

59

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*mf*

*mp*

*p*

cresc.

4

H3

1/2 pos

53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

1st pos

61 62 63 64 65 66

67 top part non-divisi

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f*

Vla. *f* 4

Vc. *f*

D.B. *f* -4 -4

67 68 69 70 71 72

Vln. 1 *ff* 3 *rit.* 4

Vln. 2 *ff* 4 0

Vla. *ff* 4 H3 4

Vc. *ff*

D.B. *ff*

73 74 75 76 77 78