

Dark Currents

For String Orchestra, Grade 1.5
by Randall D. Standridge (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 driving grade 1.5 tune will excite and energize your students. Written in e minor, it cleverly avoids the c natural on the A string and uses primarily D and A string notes. Violin 2 and Viola are homophonic. Cello and Bass double.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$55.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



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Dark Currents

By Randall Standridge, Grade 1.5

Program Notes:

We are beings of energy. Electrical bursts run through our nervous systems and animate us into the beings we are, not unlike the creature in Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*. Sometimes, that energy is used in positive ways, motivating us into acts of humor, acts of joy, and acts of benevolence.

However...

Under that lighter pulse, there exists a darker current. This is the energy of aggression, destruction, and malevolence.

To become a whole person, one must accept both sides of our nature and learn to channel all of our energy, both light and dark, into the actions that we want to put into the world. As a person who deals with depression and anxiety, I have had to learn to channel my own inner currents—both the chaotic and the calm—into something constructive, something expressive, something that allows me to reclaim control. For me, that outlet is music.

Music gives us a space to release energy in all its forms—whether it be the unbridled force of aggression, the quiet solace of reflection, or the uncontainable spark of joy. In this piece, performers and listeners alike are invited to embrace that raw, electric intensity, to transform darkness into motion, and to harness the full power of our emotions into something meaningful. Because, in the end, energy is neither good nor bad—it is what we choose to do with it that defines who we are.

Peace Love and Music - Randy Standy



About the Composer

Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected for the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions *Snake Charmer*, *Gently Blows the Summer Wind*, and *Angelic Celebrations* have been included in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. The Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble premiered his work *Art(isms)* at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work *Stonewall: 1969* was premiered at the National LGBTQIA conference in 2019. His *Symphony no.1: A Ghost Story* was premiered in 2023. In addition, Mr. Standridge's "unBroken Project," a musical initiative about mental health, has received widespread acclaim for its musical content and for providing

opportunities to normalize discussions about mental health for music students and audiences.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as an arranger/designer for the marching arts. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband, Steven, and their very, very spoiled pets.

Find out more about Mr. Standridge by following him on social media, or at randallstandridge.com

Dark Currents

Score
Grade 1.5
Duration 1:55

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)

Aggressive ♩=144

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola
(Violin 3)

Cello

Double Bass

Rehearsal
Piano

1 2 3 4 5

9

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

6 7 8 9 10 11

13 ^{div.}

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

12 13 14 15 16 17

21

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *f* 4

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* 4

D.B. *f* -4 0 4 2

Pno. *f*

18 19 20 21 22 23

28

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

24 25 26 27 28 29

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

30 31 32 33 34 35

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

36

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

36 37 38 39 40 41

44

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

42 43 44 45 46 47

51

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

48 49 50 51 52

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

55

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

53 54 55 56 57

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

fp *ff* *mf*

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.).

Measures 58 to 62. Dynamics: *f* (forte).

Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.).

Measures 63 to 68. Dynamics: *p* (piano), *fp* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo).