

Ice Storm

Matthew Gelfer

1 Full Score

8 Violin 1

8 Violin 2

3 Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)

5 Viola

3 Viola (Violin A.C.)

5 Cello

5 Bass

Extra Part - P3036381

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Program Notes

This original work for intermediate string orchestra depicts the driving winds and icy rain of a bitter winter storm. Set in the dark key of B minor, students will get to explore pizzicato and arco sections, a variety of bowing styles, and syncopated figures that build excitement. The opening should be played quietly, with anticipation. At measure 5, the intensity begins to grow both in volume and through the rising melodic phrases in violins and violas. The pizzicato section at measure 16 depicts the first frozen droplets falling – unrushed, but with tense agitation at the growing storm. This leads to the “swirling of strong winds” beginning at measure 32, where contrary motion between upper and lower strings rises and falls in the snowy tempest. Violins and violas should utilize the whole bow, especially for slurred string crossings, to achieve a strong ringing tone. Likewise, at measure 40, cellos and basses should play out the melody while violins and violas maintain a crisp, precise staccato accompaniment. The momentum continues to build toward a fortissimo conclusion that suddenly – like so many unpredictable storms – drops out of sight, leave nothing but a frigid landscape frozen in cold silence.

About the Composer

Matthew Gelfer is a multi-instrumentalist performer, educator, composer and arranger with one foot planted firmly in the classical tradition and the other in fiddling and alternative styles. He obtained a degree in film scoring from Berklee College of Music and continued his pedagogical study at CUNY Brooklyn College. He holds a master's degree from Stony Brook University, where his focus was improvisation in the instrumental music classroom. Mr. Gelfer has been a guest conductor, guest artist, and sought-after clinician teaching integration of folk fiddle styles and improvisation. Mr. Gelfer teaches junior high school orchestra in the Huntington School District on Long Island, New York. He can also be seen playing fiddle, guitar and mandolin with his Americana band, The New Students. They have released three albums of original music.

Ice Storm

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Tranquillo ♩ = 60

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass

mf

2 3 4

5 With Intensity ♩ = 90

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Cello

Bass

pp

f

5 6 7 8

Ice Storm - Score

9

Vln. 1 *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Cello

Bass

9 10 11 12

16

Vln. 1 *pizz.* *mf*

Vln. 2 *pizz.* *mf*

Vla. *pizz.* *mf*

Cello *pizz.* *mf*

Bass *pizz.* *mf*

13 14 15 16

Ice Storm - Score

Sheet music for measures 17-20, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass.

Measures 17-20 show a continuous melodic line in the strings, primarily in the first and second violins, with the viola, cello, and bass providing harmonic support.



The score for measures 17-20 is written for a string ensemble. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The first violin (Vln. 1) and second violin (Vln. 2) play a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The viola (Vla.) plays a similar melodic line. The cello and bass play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes.

Sheet music for measures 21-24, featuring Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Cello, and Bass.

Measures 21-24 show a continuation of the melodic line, with measures 23 and 24 marked with a box containing the number 24. The notation includes 'arco' markings above the staves for measures 23 and 24, indicating the use of the bow.



The score for measures 21-24 continues the string ensemble. In measure 24, there are 'arco' markings above the staves for the first violin, second violin, viola, and bass, indicating they should be played with the bow. A box with the number '24' is placed above the first violin staff in measure 24.

Ice Storm - Score

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

25 26 27 28

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

29 30 31 32

Ice Storm - Score

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

33 34 35 36

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

37 38 39 40

40

mp
mp
mp
f
f

Ice Storm - Score

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

41 42 43 44

mf
mf
mf
mf
mf

-1 -2 4 -1 4

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

45 46 47 48

47
f
f
f
f
f

4 4 4 4

V

Ice Storm - Score

Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

49 50 51 52

53
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Cello
 Bass

53 54 55 56

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

pizz. pizz. pizz. pizz. pizz.