

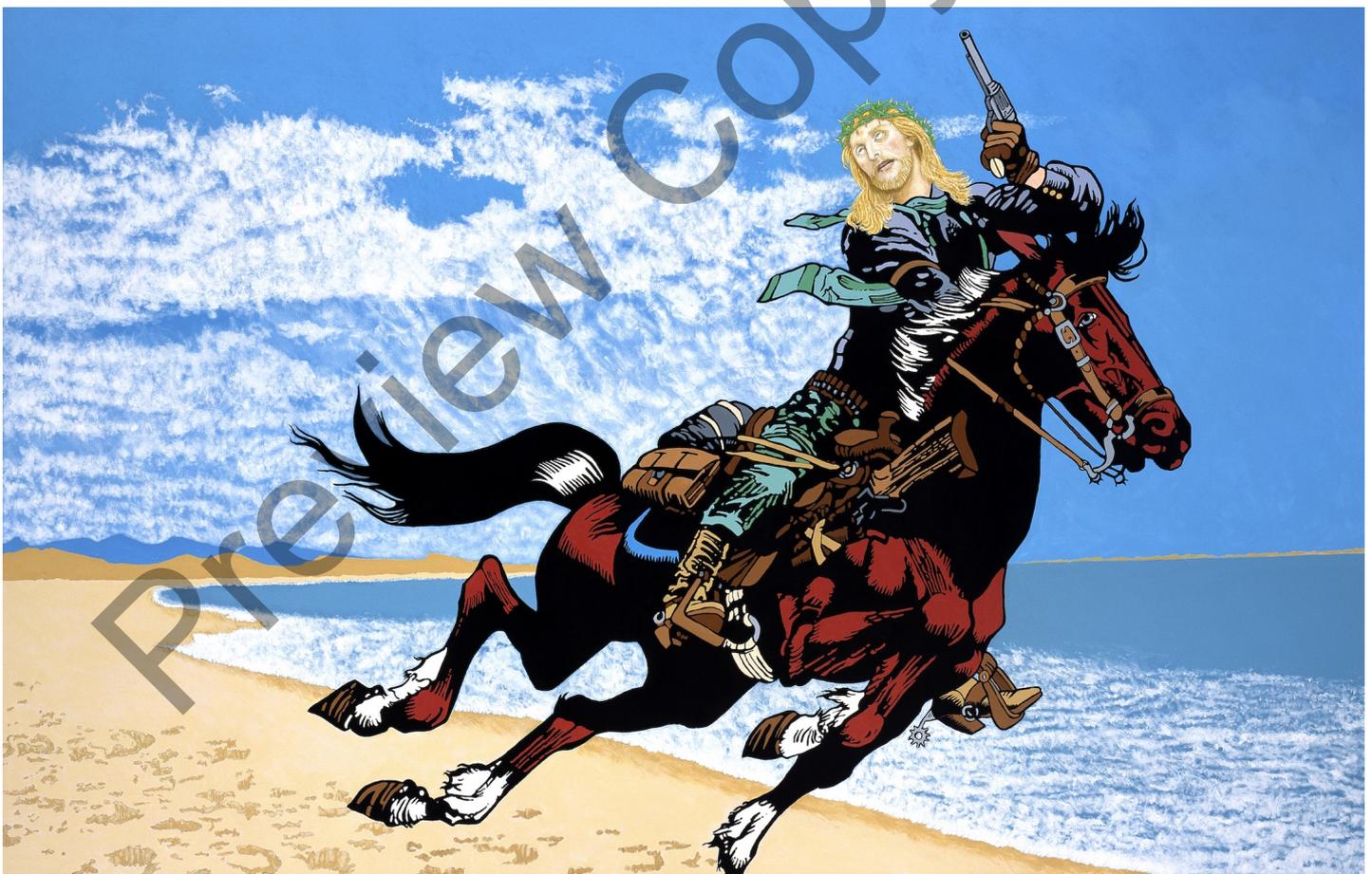
Russell Steinberg

Paleface

Trio

for Violin, Piano, Cello (and Kazoos)

Inspired by artwork by Jerry Kearns



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Paleface

Trio for Violin, Piano, Cello (and Kazoos)

Inspired by artwork by Jerry Kearns

op. 81

I. Wild West

II. Action Hero

III. Into night...

Duration: Approx. 25 minutes

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Trio for Violin, Piano, cello (and kazoos)
by Russell Steinberg

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www.russellsteinberg.com

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Front Cover: *Lowland Drifter*, Jerry Kearns
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About Paleface

Inspired by the acclaimed paintings of New York “psychological pop” artist **Jerry Kearns**, *Paleface* explores the persistence of the American hero myth, even as it breaks down on every level in our contemporary society. It begins with the Western cowboy mythos—horses, cowboys, folk songs and church hymns (Jesus plays a lurking role in the piece), even a gun fight. Then it jumps to the varied 20th century heroes who struggle and triumph over dark forces—detectives from pulp comics and film noir, the secret agent, and the muscled action hero. *Paleface* concludes with all these icons now as phantoms, struggling in the night to cohere and make sense of a world they no longer can possibly describe. They ultimately all go to church and fade away to a ghost gospel choir.

The musical style of *Paleface* is contemporary classical with an Americana quality influenced by Ives, Copland, and George Crumb. The pianist taps inside the piano to evoke distant galloping horses, all three instruments create a collage of a dozen folksongs and church hymns. There is dissonant chase music, a jazzy “secret agent” tune, frantic blues, and even a comic fanfare with kazoos. A brief summary of the three movements:

- I. Wild West—galloping horses, an Ives-ian montage of over a dozen Western/American folk tunes, and a shootout; the piano in this movement uses several extended techniques inside the instrument—tapping the steel bars to imitate horse gallops, melodies and chords with muted strings, and atmospheric strums.
- II. Action Hero—a fast scherzo with dissonant “chase” music, jazzy “secret agent” music, “action super hero” music, all getting jumbled together as they lurch towards a comic climax with kazoos tooting out a ridiculous fanfare.
- III. Into Night—an *Adagio* that takes all these American icons and thrusts them into the night of today’s post 9-11 world. The first part is spooky with high notes depicting the starry night, punctuated with startling tremolos, chords that descend into the depths, and ghostly returns of previous themes. The musical landscape enters “church,” with a hymn that morphs into a quasi-gospel pop anthem. The anthem swells and subsides, eventually itself becoming a ghost and fading away.

Performance Notes

Accompanying Video

Paleface is conceived as a multimedia work in counterpoint with a three part video that corresponds to each of the three musical movements. Each video slowly pans through details of Jerry Kearns' paintings focused on the American hero mythology. The video should be projected on a large screen either behind the piano or on screens surrounding the musicians. *Paleface* may also be effectively performed as a piano trio, without the video.

Kazoos

Each musician plays a kazoo in the *Action Hero* movement. Kazoos take some practice to master pitch and articulation. Written pitches may be adjusted up or down an octave if necessary. The tremolo in M293 involves rapidly tapping the end of the kazoo while blowing. The switching between setting down your instrument to pick up the kazoo and putting it down to then pick up your instrument is a key element of the humor in the movement. The transitions require practice to be dramatic. Ham them up!

Effects Inside the Piano

The first movement, *Wild West*, has several passages performed inside the piano. Switching between standing to play inside the piano and sitting back down to play the keyboard (and vice-versa) requires practice and calculation, especially because the pedal is held down when playing inside the piano. It may even be necessary to have a page turner assist in playing some of the passages.

Opening—"Tap Metal Bars Inside Piano with Palms"—experiment with each piano to discover the metal bars that are most resonant and sound like galloping horses.

M6 "Fast fingernail scrape along low A string"—scrape towards the keyboard with either one fingernail or more with the palm facing down in a ball; experiment half muting with the palm or other fingers to discover the best balance between percussive noise and pitch.

M15 "Tap with curled fingers on the bass strings"—curled fingers create a soft percussive effect. Half mute on attack to give bite and resonance—this takes practice to discover the degree of muting that still provides resonance to the chord.

String pizzicato effects in the Gunfight passage of Wild West

Beginning M182, the snap pizzicatos and the fast gliss. bullet "pings" require dramatic and creative execution to achieve their self-explanatory effects.

M192 Violin R.H. palm tap on fingerboard—left hand forefinger holds down the quadruple stop while right hand palm taps the fingerboard over the instrument body. Experiment to find the spot that allows the most pitch to sound.

At M. 196 Violin R.H.—the flamenco strum is executed by rapidly fanning out the right hand fingers from the ring finger to the index finger.

Cello M.192 pizz R.H. 1212 etc.—this is a guitar effect; alternate the forefinger and middle finger quickly as if playing a guitar.

Audience Participation Possibility

If desired, an audience may join in the fun playing kazoos in the *Action Hero* movement. I suggest two moments:

- 1) M137—after the cello cadenza. Have the audience blow 5 times the 2 measure rhythmic motive: 6 eighth notes, one quarter note and 2 beats rest.
- 2) M293—after the kazoo fanfare. Let the audience improvise loudly on this measure for 10 seconds.

A conductor will need to "teach" these moments to the audience before the performance, then signal the start and stop of both of them.

Paleface

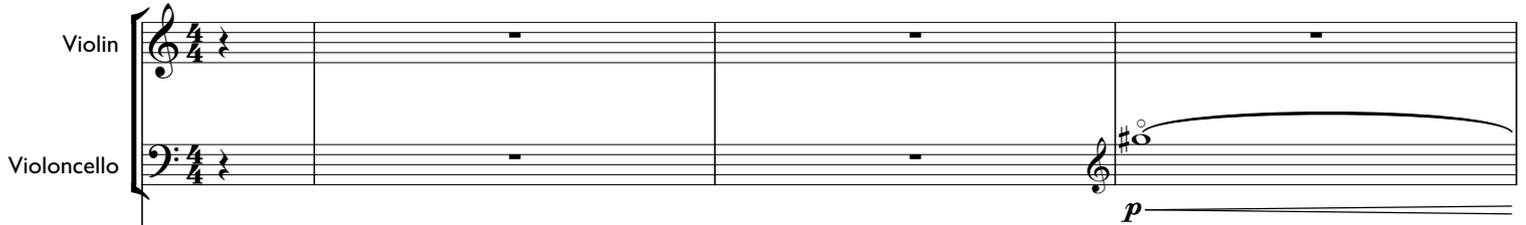
I. Wild West

Russell Steinberg

Fast Gallop ♩ = 144

Violin

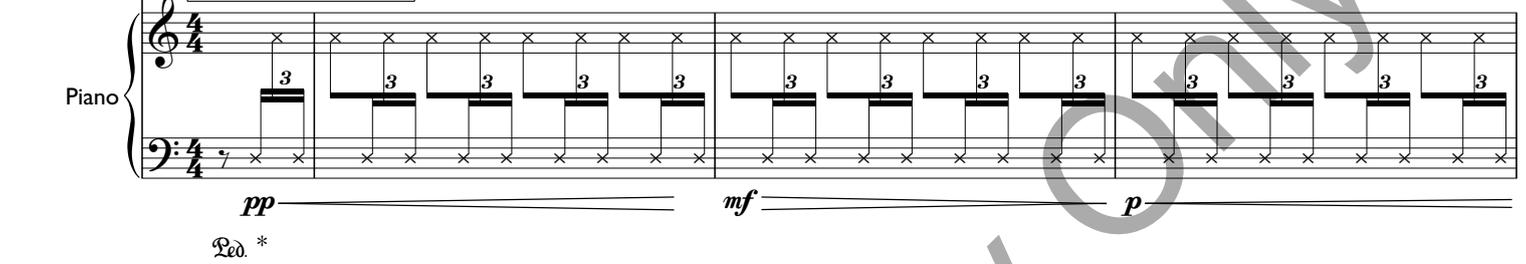
Violoncello



Fast Gallop ♩ = 144

Tap Metal Bars
Inside Piano with Palms

Piano



4



Fast fingernail
scrape along
low A string

* Hold pedal down
through M. 24

10

snap pizz.

ff

pizz.

ff

Mute strings inside piano

arco
sul pont.

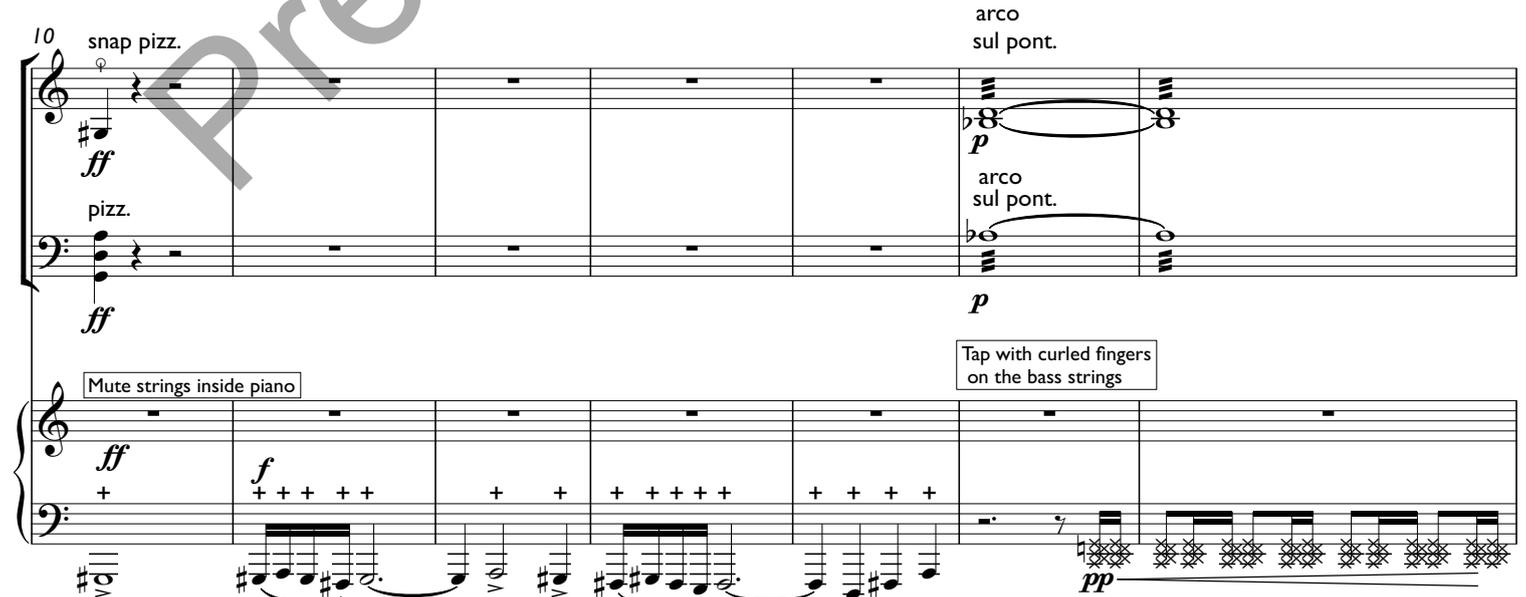
p

arco
sul pont.

p

Tap with curled fingers
on the bass strings

pp



17 ord. arco *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp*

ord. arco *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp*

f *pp* *pp*

20 *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

f *pp* *pp*

23 sul pont. ord. *fp* *p* *mf* *f*

sul pont. ord. *fp* *p* *mf* *f*

secco *p* *mf* *mf*

f *p* *

Red.

27

6 *f* *secco* *mp* col Ped.

31

f *secco*

34

f *secco*

37

mp *mf* *f*

mp *mf* *f*

ff *mp* *f* *mf* *f*

col Ped.

Ped.

41

mf *f*

mf *f*

pizz.

mp

Western Folk Song Collage
"Old Chisolm Trail"

$\text{♩} = 120$

45

mf *f*

mf *f*

arco

Western Folk Song Collage
"Old Chisolm Trail"

$\text{♩} = 120$

Rap palms on piano case

f

49 **"Bonanza"**

"Bonanza" *8va*

"Streets of Laredo" **"Rock of Ages"**
rit.
p

"Streets of Laredo" rit.
mp

59 **Moderato** ♩=90 **"Rock of Ages"**
p

Moderato ♩=90 **"Tom Dooley"**
p

65 **accel. . . . Allegro ♩=120** **rit. . . .**

Allegro ♩=120
"Billy The Kid"

accel. . . . **rit. . . .**

mf *f*

3

Ped. _____

Andante, disembodied ♩=80
"Home on the Range"

70

p **"Red River Valley"** **"Bringing in the Sheaves"**

mp *pizz.*

p

Andante, disembodied ♩=80

pp

77 **"Copland Appalachian Spring"**

"Oh! Susanna" *lontano*

arco

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

p

81 *8va* **accel.**

"Dvorak New World"
arco

"Copland Appalachian Spring" **accel.**
"Dvorak New World"

85 **Vivace ♩ = 144** **"Get Along Little Doggie"**

mp

Vivace ♩ = 144 *mp*

90

**"Elmer Bernstein
The Magnificent Seven"**

97 ♩ = 126

mf *mf*

♩ = 126

Manic Honky Tonk

"Home on the Range"

"O Susana"

102

f *f*

"Bonanza"

pizz. *arco*

arco **"Camptown Races"**

Manic Honky Tonk
"Victory in Jesus"

8^{va}

f *f*

"Old Chisolm Trail"

"Elmer Bernstein The Magnificent Seven"

106

f *f*

"Old Chisolm Trail" **"Elmer Bernstein The Magnificent Seven"**

8^{va}

f *f*

110

Musical score for measures 110-114. The score is written for three staves: two for the vocal line and one for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line features a melodic line with various dynamics including sfz, mf, and sf. The piano accompaniment includes chords, arpeggiated figures, and a trill in the right hand. Dynamics include sfz, mp, and sf.

115

Musical score for measures 115-117. The score is written for three staves: two for the vocal line and one for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line features a melodic line with sfz dynamics. The piano accompaniment includes chords and arpeggiated figures. Dynamics include sfz.

118

Musical score for measures 118-122. The score is written for three staves: two for the vocal line and one for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The vocal line features a melodic line with sfz and f sfz dynamics. The piano accompaniment includes chords and arpeggiated figures. Dynamics include sfz and f.

121 pizz.

Gunfight

125 Snap *sfz* Snap *sfz*

arco harm gliss G string *p*

arco harm gliss G string

arco harm gliss D string

mp Strum Bass Strings *p*

sfz

131 arco

arco

Mute strings inside piano

ord. muted *p*

137

f

pizz.

3

3

3

143

p

3

3

arco

like wind

arco

like wind

Half mute on attack to give bite and resonance

8^{va}

8^{vb}

147

p

3

3

arco

like wind

8^{va}

8^{vb}

149

cantabile drammatico

f

cantabile drammatico

f

8va

Strum High Glss Inside Piano

8vb

153

p

3 3 3

3 3

8vb

156

5 5

tr#

f

3 3

160

pizz.

3

3

3

pizz.

164

arco

3

3

3

3

arco

168

3

3

3

3

3

3

171

ff

ff

5

3

3

3

5

gliss.

7

8^{va}

Red.

P

+ + 3 +

175 sul pont.

p

harm gliss D string

harm gliss G string

sul pont.

p

+ + 3 +

+ 3 +

+ 3 +

179

Inside piano strum high strings

pp rustling wind

Shootout
pizz. snap

182

ff gunshots

fast gliss (bullet pings)

ff

pizz. snap

ff gunshots

fast gliss (bullet pings)

ff

Shootout

Inside piano loud taps with curled fingertips on bass strings

ff

186

ord. secco

8^{va}

190

R.H. palm tap on fingerboard

R.H. 1212 etc. (pizz.)

p

Inside piano loud taps with curled fingertips on bass strings

ped.

193

Slap Violin Body

Slap Cello Body

(pizz.)
II R.H.
III 3 2
IV

guitar finger strum 3-2-1

ff

196

L.H. gradually press down lighter on the fingerboard,
R.H. quasi flamenco finger strum
1 3 2 1 etc.

L.H. Flat Finger slap on fingerboard
Fingers 1,2,3 Together (pitch not important)

8^{ub}

199

R.H. flat finger taps on instrument body
(alternate index and middle finger)

R.H. flat finger taps on instrument body
(alternate 2 fingers)

Slap Cello Body

Slap L.H. Palm flat down on bass strings,, fingers spread wide.

Tap Metal Bars Inside Piano

sfz *pp* *mf* *pp* *ff* *sfz* *pp*

205

arco *p*

mp

mp

rit.

mf *pp*

210

Allegretto ♩ = 112

pp

pp

gliss.

gliss.

Allegretto ♩ = 112

8^{va} *pp*

8^{vb}

Low bass strings strum

mp

Red.

217

pp *f*

pp *f*

smoky

pp

235 - **Vivace** ♩ = 144

f
pizz.
f
arco

Vivace ♩ = 144

238

240

ff
ff
f

3
3

II. Action Hero

Scherzo Vivace ♩=180
Hyperdramatic and driving

1

arco

f

arco

f

Put down violin.
Pick up kazoo.*

sfz

Put down kazoo;
Pick up violin.

ord.

mp

f

Put down violin.
Pick up kazoo.

Put down cello.
Pick up kazoo.*

sfz

Put down kazoo.
Pick up cello.

ord.

mp

f

Put down cello.
Pick up kazoo.

Scherzo Vivace ♩=180
Hyperdramatic and driving

2

f

sfz

ord.

mp

f

*Theatrical moment! Practice to switch safely, but with a flourish. Kazoo notes may be hummed at pitch, an octave above, or octave below.

7

Put down kazoo.
Pick up violin.

ord.

mp

f

Put down kazoo.
Pick up cello

ord.

mp

f

8

Rap knuckles
on piano case

ord.

mp

f

"Frenetic Blues"

percussive

14

mf \leftarrow f

mf \leftarrow f

"Frenetic Blues"

percussive

8

mf \leftarrow f

22

29

p f

p f

p f mp f

37

Musical score for measures 37-43. It features a piano introduction with a treble clef staff containing a melodic line and a bass clef staff with a rhythmic accompaniment. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include accents and a crescendo leading to a forte section.

44

Musical score for measures 44-50. This section continues the piano introduction with more complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings. It includes a mezzo-piano section followed by a forte section and then returns to mezzo-piano. The bass line features a prominent triplet pattern.

51

"Secret Agent"
♩=126 sleazy

Musical score for measures 51-54. This section is titled "Secret Agent" and is marked "sleazy" with a tempo of 126. It features a 4/4 time signature. The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a pizzicato section in the treble. Dynamics range from mezzo-piano to piano.

56 pizz. *p* *mp* *mp*

60 *f* *f* arco *mf* arco *mf*

64 *mf* *mf*

67

Musical score for measures 67-68. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features triplet eighth notes and quarter notes. A large watermark 'Preview Only' is visible across the page.

69

Musical score for measures 69-72. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features triplet eighth notes and quarter notes. A large watermark 'Preview Only' is visible across the page.

73

A tempo ♩ = 160

Pick up kazoo

Pick up kazoo

f

Musical score for measures 73-76. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features triplet eighth notes and quarter notes. A large watermark 'Preview Only' is visible across the page.

A tempo ♩ = 160

f

sfz

8^{va}

Musical score for measures 77-80. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are for a vocal line, and the bottom two are for a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music features triplet eighth notes and quarter notes. A large watermark 'Preview Only' is visible across the page.

78

Pick up violin

ord.

Pick up cello

ord.

Pick up kazoo

sfz

Put down kazoo

87

pizz.

ord.

95

arco

arco

"Hero Theme"

♩ = 112

102

pizz.

pizz.

This system contains measures 102 through 105. It features a string quartet with two staves (violin and viola on top, violin and viola on bottom). The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 112. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measures 102-103 show melodic lines with accents. Measures 104-105 feature a pizzicato accompaniment consisting of chords and eighth-note patterns.

"Hero Theme"

♩ = 112

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 102-105. It consists of two staves (treble and bass clef). The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of chords and eighth notes, mirroring the string quartet's pizzicato accompaniment.

106 arco

ff marcato

arco

ff marcato

5

5

5

5

This system contains measures 106 through 108. The string quartet is marked *arco* and *ff marcato*. The music features melodic lines with accents and slurs. The bottom two staves (violin and viola) have fingering numbers '5' written below them.

8va

6

6

6

6

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 106-108. It features a complex accompaniment with chords and eighth notes. The top staff has an *8va* marking and the number '6' below it. The bottom staff also has the number '6' below it.

109

sf ————— *ff*

sf ————— *ff*

sf

sf

This system contains measures 109 through 111. The string quartet is marked with *sf* and *ff*. The music features melodic lines with accents and slurs. The bottom two staves (violin and viola) have *sf* and *ff* markings below them.

8^{va}

This system shows the piano accompaniment for measures 109-111. It features a complex accompaniment with chords and eighth notes. The top staff has an *8^{va}* marking.

119

122

Fanfare

126

149 pick up violin

arco battuto

f *p* *f*

pick up cello

arco battuto

f *p* *f*

157

ord.

pizz.

arco

p

164

pizz.

arco battuto

ord.

p

$\text{♩} = 126$
"Secret Agent"

171

pizz.

$\text{♩} = 126$
"Secret Agent"

176

arco

mp

pizz.

180

arco

p

184

pizz. *mf*

arco

Musical score for measures 184-187. The system includes a violin part with triplets and a piano part with triplets. Dynamics include *mf* and markings for *pizz.* and *arco*.

188

pizz.

8^{va}

Musical score for measures 188-190. The system includes a violin part with triplets and a piano part with triplets. Dynamics include *mf* and markings for *pizz.* and *8^{va}*.

191

arco

f

Più mosso ♩ = 180

Musical score for measures 191-193. The system includes a violin part with triplets and a piano part with triplets. Dynamics include *f* and a tempo marking of *Più mosso ♩ = 180*.

f

Più mosso ♩ = 180

Musical score for measures 194-196. The system includes a violin part with triplets and a piano part with triplets. Dynamics include *f* and a tempo marking of *Più mosso ♩ = 180*.

195

8va

202 **rapid**

arco *mp*

arco *mp*

8va

(8)

rapid

f

8va

209 **accel.**

f

f

f

accel.

"OUT OF CONTROL Blues"

♩.=72

216 - arco

f *arco* *tr#* *mp* *f*

"OUT OF CONTROL Blues"

♩.=72

f *tr#* *gliss.* *mp* *f*

224

mp *mp* *f* *f*

f *f*

233

mp *mp*

mp *f* *mp* *f*

A little more measured

242 ♩=180

Musical score for measures 242-248. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a single note (F#4) followed by rests. The bass staff begins with a single note (F#3) followed by rests. From measure 245, both staves feature a dense, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, with the treble staff playing a melodic line and the bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The tempo marking is ♩=180.

A little more measured

♩=180

Musical score for measures 249-256. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves feature a dense, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The treble staff plays a melodic line, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The tempo marking is ♩=180.

249

Musical score for measures 249-256 (continued). The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves feature a dense, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The treble staff plays a melodic line, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

257

Musical score for measures 257-264. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves feature a dense, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The treble staff plays a melodic line, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 257-264 (continued). The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. Both staves feature a dense, rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The treble staff plays a melodic line, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment.

264

ff

ff

ff

272

Sua

Sua

279

(8)

Pick up kazoo

Pick up kazoo

(8)

Quasi Toy Piano

hammer like crazy

298

tr

tr

**Presto $\text{♩} = 160$
cartoonish**

302 pizz.

pizz.

**Presto $\text{♩} = 160$
cartoonish**

305 *8va*

3

3

305 arco

arco

307

The musical score consists of two systems. The first system contains measures 307 and 308. The second system contains measures 309 and 310. The notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 4/4. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamic markings include *pizz.* (pizzicato), *arco* (arco), and *sfz* (sforzando). The score is marked with a large, diagonal watermark that reads "Preview Copy Only".

III. Into night...

Adagio ♩=60

arco sul pont.
ff > *pp*

arco sul pont.
ff > *pp*

Adagio ♩=60

pp

ad libitum > *pp*
mf

ff 3 3 3 3 *pp*

6 6 6 6

8va Ped.

8 *ord.* "Stars" *ff* sul pont. *ord.* *p*

"Stars" *ord.* sul pont. *ord.* *p*

Mute strings inside piano

f

3 3 3 3 3

8va Ped.

65

mf < *f*

mf < *f*

pp sul pont. gliss.

pp sul pont. gliss.

mf < *f* < *mp* > *pp*

mp *ppp*

8va

75

rit. ord.

ppp < *pp* > *ppp*

pp *mp* > *pp*

ppp < *pp* > *ppp*

pp *mp* > *pp*

8) rit.

pp

mf > *p*

mf > *p* > *f* > *p*

rit.

84

p < *mf* > *p*

mf > *p* > *f* > *p*

rit.

rit.

92 **♩=66 Hymn (tender, distant)**
cantabile espress.

pp *mf* *p*
pp *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

♩=66 Hymn (tender, distant)

pp *mf* *p* *mp* *p*
mf *p* *mp* *p*

101

pp *p* *mf*
mf *p* *pp* *mp cantabile espress.* *mf*

Più mosso ♩=92
gently building to a dance

110 **accel.**

p *pp*
p *pp*

Più mosso ♩=92
gently building to a dance

accel.

p *mp* *p*
p *mp* *p*

"Quasi Pop Gospel"

118

mp

mf

mf p

mf

Ped.

126

mf

f

Ped.

135

Ped.

Ped.

142

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

mp *p* *pp*

Ped.

151 rit. Adagio ♩=66 Prayer

mf *ppp* *p* *pp*

mf *ppp* *p* *pp* *pp*

151 rit. Adagio ♩=66 Prayer

mf *p* *mp* *pp*

8va

159

pp *pp* *pp*

159

8va

163

espress.

p *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

8va

8vb

168

Largo "Stars"

espr.

pp *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp*

ad libitum

ad libitum

8va

8vb

174

accel. **rit.** **Adagio**

ppp *ppp* *ppp*

8va

8vb

"Ghost Pop Gospel"

Allegretto lontano ♩ = 100

179

accel.

ppp

ppp

"Ghost Pop Gospel"

Allegretto lontano ♩ = 100

accel.

pp

ppp

una corda
Ped.

186

morendo

Adagio

morendo

Adagio

8^{va}

15^{ma}