

STRING ORCHESTRA SERIES

SIMPLE SONG

RALPH HULTGREN

DURATION: 2'55"

LEVEL: 2

SAMPLE SCORE

INSTRUMENTATION

1 - Score	5 - Viola
7 - Violin 1	5 - Cello
7 - Violin 2	3 - Double Bass

String Music

by Australian Composers

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SIMPLE SONG

Ralph Hultgren

Duration: 2.55

Level: 1½

Program Notes:

“Why aren’t there more slow pieces in three four time?” Why indeed.

A colleague asked the question. I wrote the piece for band and two other colleagues suggested it might sound well for strings. So here it is!

The music is slow and singing in style. It is plaintive and evocative in nature and it is simple – a Simple Song.

Rehearsal Notes:

Where possible, the phrases should be long – as long as the maturity of the players will allow. Shape them just like they were being sung, with a sense of breath and cadence.

Don’t allow the work to drag or rush, let it move comfortably at 84 beats per minute; a little more or a little less. A hint of *rubato* or consider an increase in tempo at 41 would be acceptable. Make music is my only real wish.

About the Composer:

Ralph Hultgren began his professional music career as a trumpet player, performing with the Central Band of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Australian Brass Choir and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. From 1979 until 1990, Mr. Hultgren was composer/arranger-in-residence for the Queensland Department of Education’s Instrumental Music Program, during which time he produced 185 works and established himself as a leader in the field of composition for young musicians. Mr. Hultgren is Head of Pre-Tertiary Studies at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University.

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Simple Song

Ralph Hultgren

Slow, chorale style ♩ = 84 - 89

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass, measures 1-5. The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Slow, chorale style' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 84 - 89. The dynamics are marked *mp*. The Violin parts feature a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The Viola, Cello, and Bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and some movement. A large red watermark 'SAMPLE SCORE' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass, measures 6-10. The score continues from measure 5. The Violin parts continue with the melodic line. The Viola, Cello, and Double Bass parts provide harmonic support. A double bar line is present at the beginning of measure 6, and the measure number '6' is written above the Violin 1 staff.

12

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

SAMPLE SCORE



18

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

mf cresc.

24

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

f

mp



30

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

46

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mf *f*



51

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

56 **Slowing down** *div. V*

Vln. 1 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Vln. 2 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Vla. *mp* *cresc.*

Vc. *mp* *cresc.* *mp*

D.B. *mp* *cresc.* *mp*



61 *á2*

Vln. 1 *mp* *p*

Vln. 2 *mp* *p*

Vla. *mp* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *p*

D.B. *pizz.* *arco* *mp l.v.* *p*