Jenny B Peters

CRIPPLE CREEK

An old time fiddle tune
arranged for string orchestra

Includes

- Full Score
- Technical Building Blocks
- Student Improvisation prompts
- Keyboard/Piano Score with Chord Symbols

GRADE 1

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Bass

Jenny B Peters

Presents

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Instrumentation

- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass

About this Arrangement: Cripple Creek

This arrangement of *Cripple Creek* serves as an ideal introduction to the drive and energy of American folk music. Historically recognized as a standard banjo solo in the clawhammer tradition, this tune has evolved into one of the most essential pieces in the old-time and bluegrass repertoire. Structured to move students from basic technique to creative performance, it provides a comprehensive framework for exploring the string band tradition.

Comprehensive Performance Materials

Each purchase includes a **Combined Score** that provides both the Building Blocks and the full Orchestra Arrangement for every part. To ensure accessibility for all players, the Orchestra Arrangement features:

- **Regular Parts:** These include the full, authentic folk-style articulations, slides, and syncopated rhythms intended for intermediate students.
- **Simple Parts:** These versions are streamlined for beginners, focusing on the essential melody and rhythm while removing complex articulations, allowing everyone in the ensemble to contribute.

Part 1: The Building Blocks

The Building Blocks are designed as a modular learning system. These parts include chord symbols above the staff, which facilitate several important musical goals:

- **Harmonic Internalization:** Students learn to hear the shifts between the tonic, subdominant, and dominant chords, which are the foundation of the bluegrass sound.
- **Role Clarity:** Students see how their specific part fits into the larger harmonic structure of the tune.
- **Ensemble Flexibility:** The chord symbols allow for easy integration of rhythm instruments like guitar, banjo, or mandolin to create an authentic string band feel.
- **Improvisation Development:** Students are encouraged to create "micro-improvisations" on the existing material in the Building Blocks. Teachers can use "call and response" techniques with a rhythmic backing track to guide this creative development.

Creative Arrangement & Student Agency

The Building Blocks serve as the "raw materials" for performance. This resource encourages **student-led arranging**, where the ensemble can:

- **Build Custom Structures:** Decide the order of sections, such as starting with a solo "kickoff" or ending with a full-ensemble "tag."
- **Experiment with Textures:** Alternate between different groups playing the melody and the rhythmic accompaniment.

- **Cultivate Artistry:** By making these choices, students develop a deeper sense of ownership and artistic identity within the ensemble.

Part 2: The String Orchestra Arrangement

The full String Orchestra Arrangement captures the syncopated energy of the classic tune. It focuses on the melodic "slides" and rhythmic drive that give the tune its signature "mountain" sound.

Authentic Fiddle Techniques

This arrangement introduces students to specific stylistic markers, including:

- **The Fiddle "Slur":** Learning to bridge across the beat to create a fluid, driving sound.
- **Syncopated Bowing:** Mastering the rhythmic "hiccups" and accents that give bluegrass its unique character.
- **Stylistically Distinct Articulations:** Helping students move from a smooth classical stroke to the crisp, energized stroke of a fiddler.

Classroom Support & Audio Resources

Jenny is available to visit your classroom in person or over Zoom. Send an email to jenny@jennybpeters.com to set up a visit!

To further support your students' development, **more audio parts for the Building Blocks are available directly from Jenny.** These expanded resources include accompaniment loops at various tempos and multi-part tracks to help students master the style and their own improvisations.

Contact: jenny@jennybpeters.com

Website: www.jennybpeters.com

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THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF

CRIPPLE CREEK

A Pedagogical Resource for String Orchestra

BUILDING BLOCKS MODULES

Arranged and Compiled by Jenny B Peters

PARTS INCLUDED

Each module contains parts for:

- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Viola
- Cello
- Double Bass
- Piano

CONTENTS OF THE BUILDING BLOCKS

1. **Kick-Off** – Establishing the tempo and stylistic "lift."
2. **Tune** – The primary melodic statement.
3. **Rhythmic Improvisation Ideas** – Building creative rhythmic vocabulary.
4. **Tune with Rhythmic "Fiddle" Feel** – Integrating stylistic bowing.
5. **Bass Line** – The foundational harmonic movement.
6. **Back-up: Chopping** – Introduction to the percussive "chop" technique.
7. **Break: Shuffle Style** – A soloistic variation using the shuffle stroke.
8. **Shuffle Break with Double Stops** – Advanced texture and resonance.
9. **Tag** – A last little bit that students will enjoy playing.

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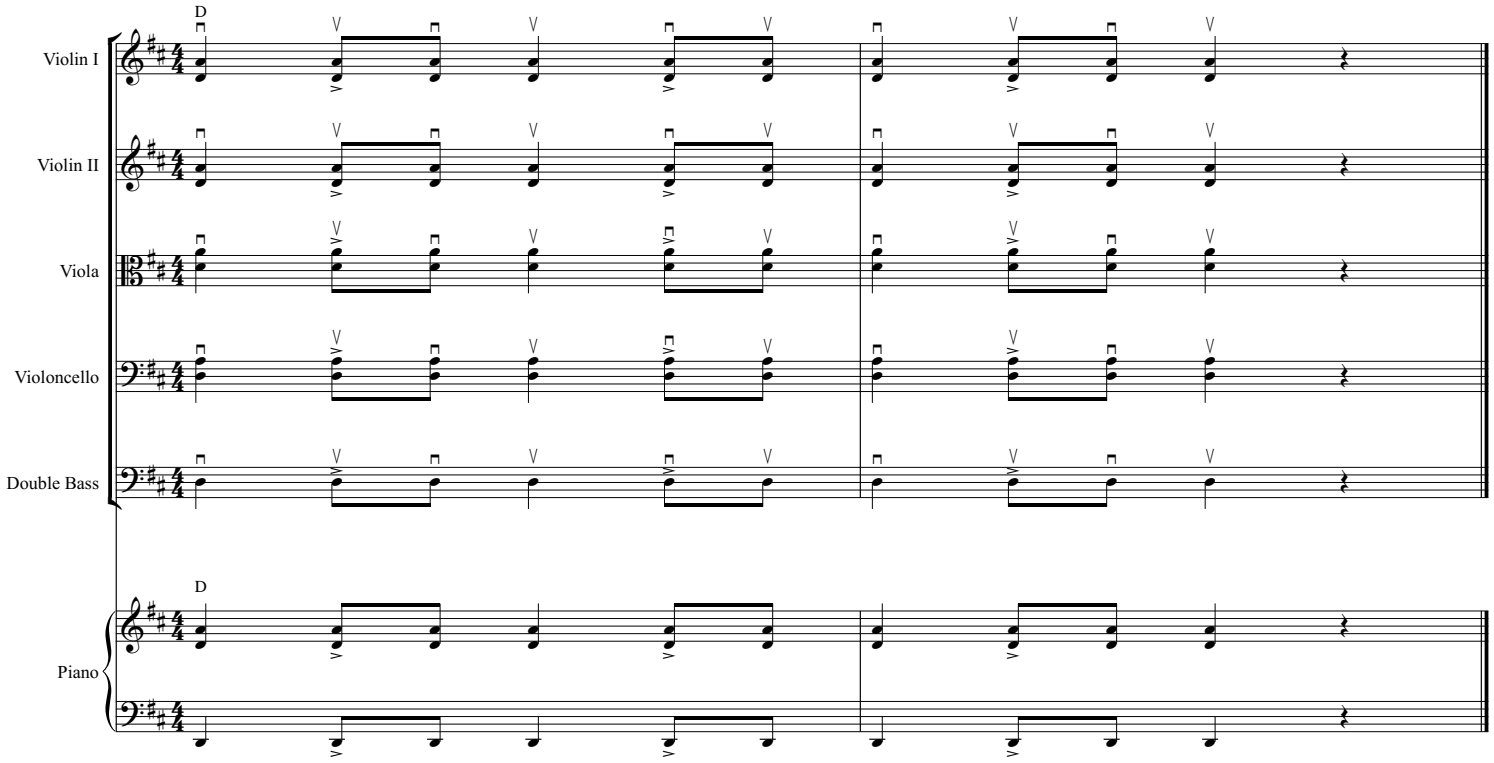
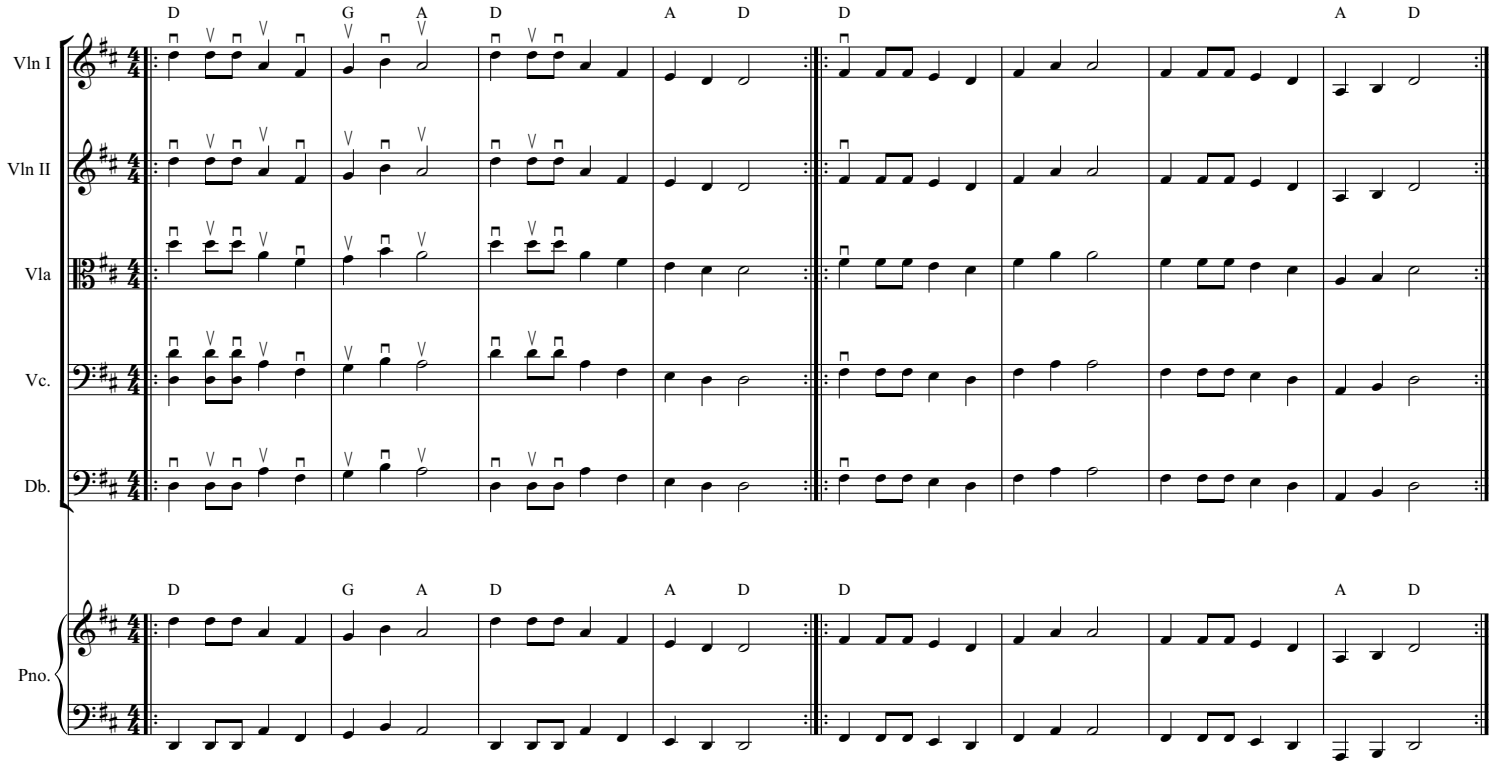
Cripple Creek Building Blocks

Jenny Peters

1. Kick-Off



2. Tune



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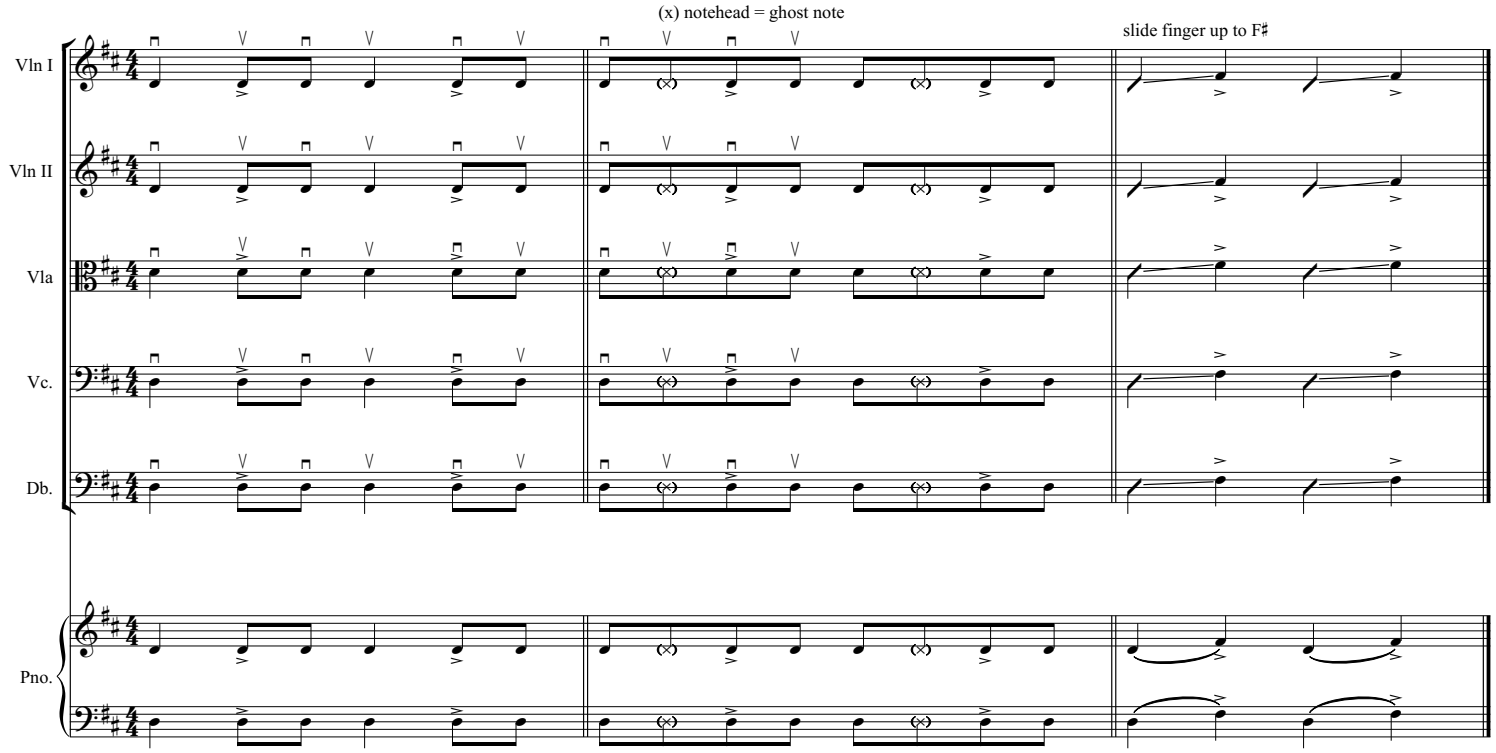
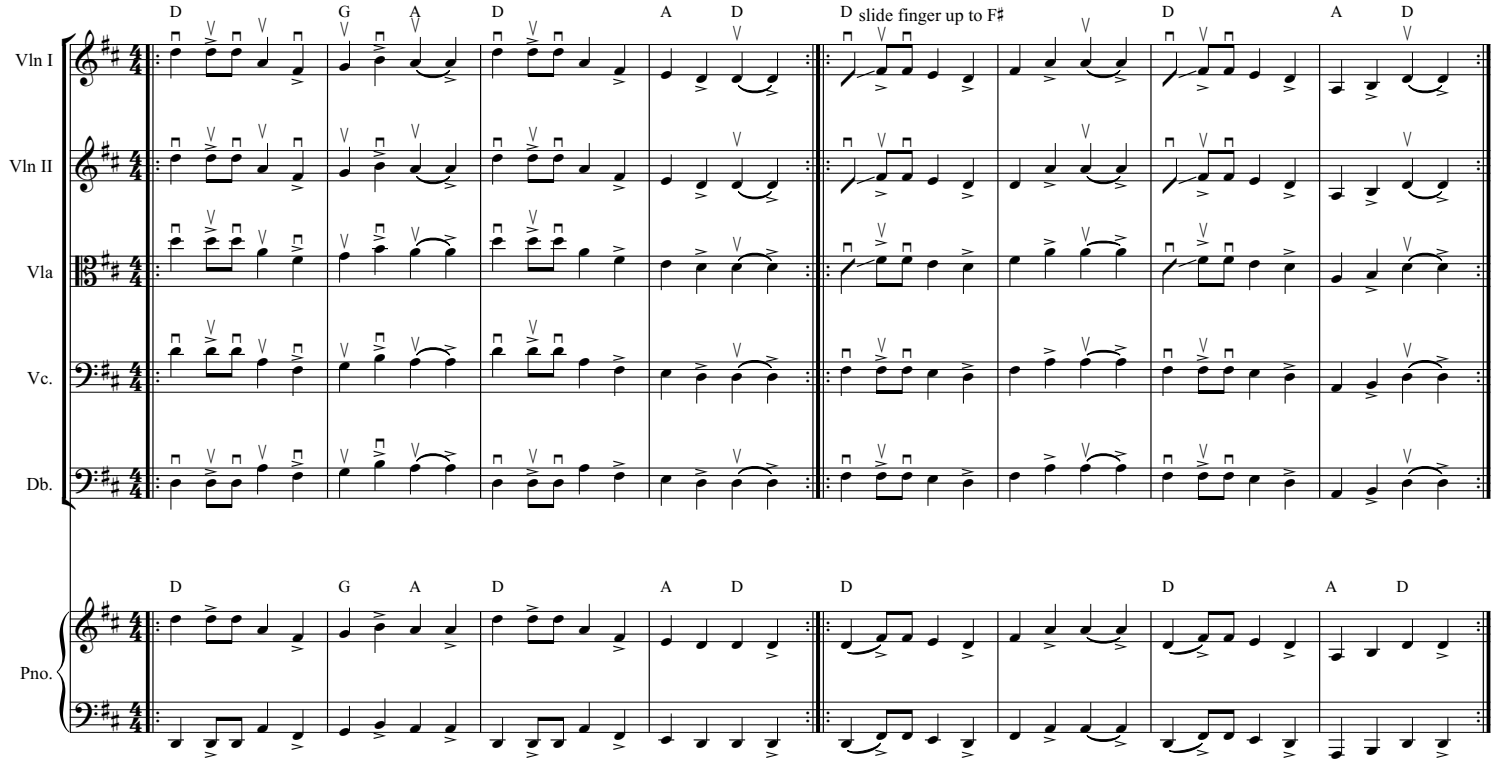
3. Rhythmic Improvisation Ideas

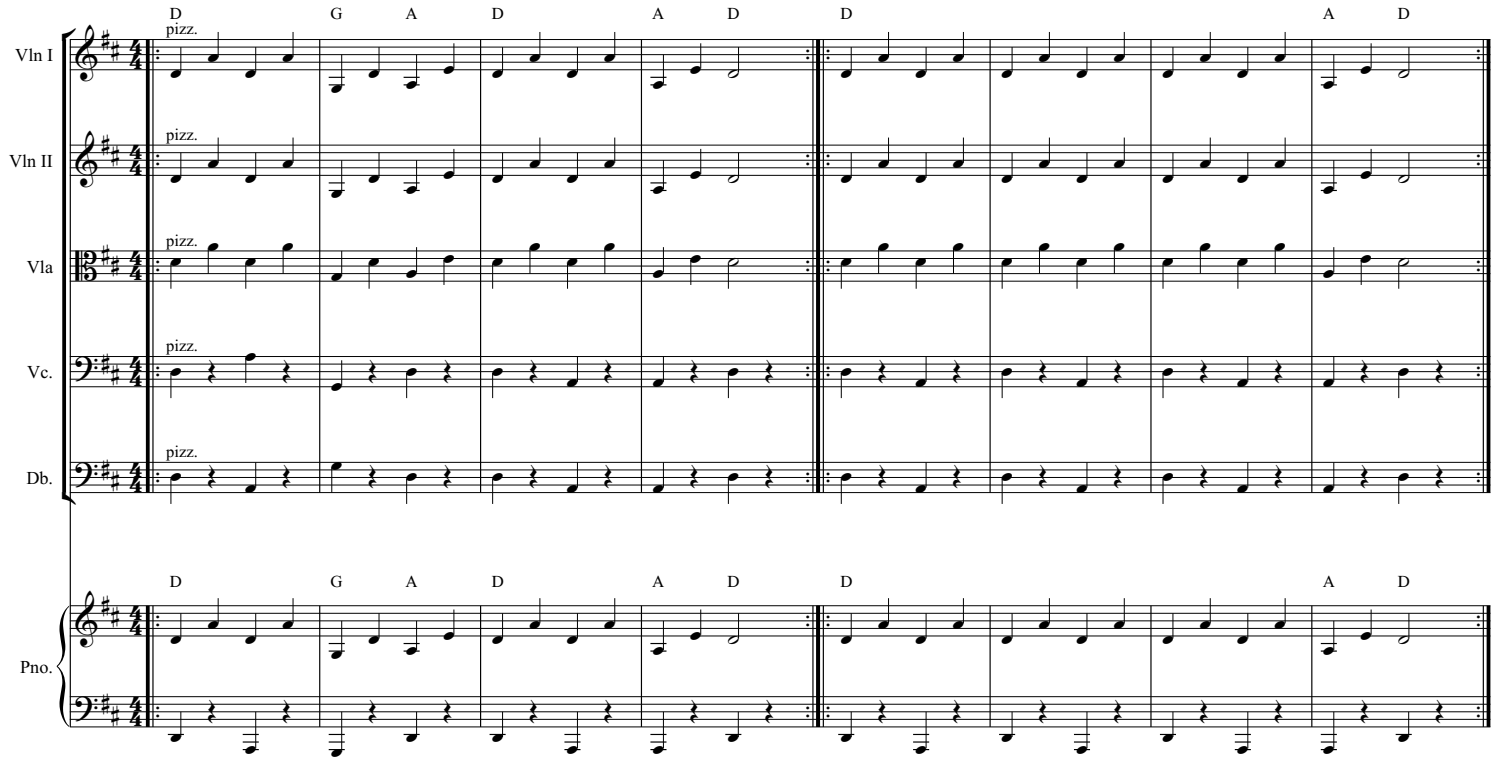


4. Tune With Rhythmic "Fiddle" Feel

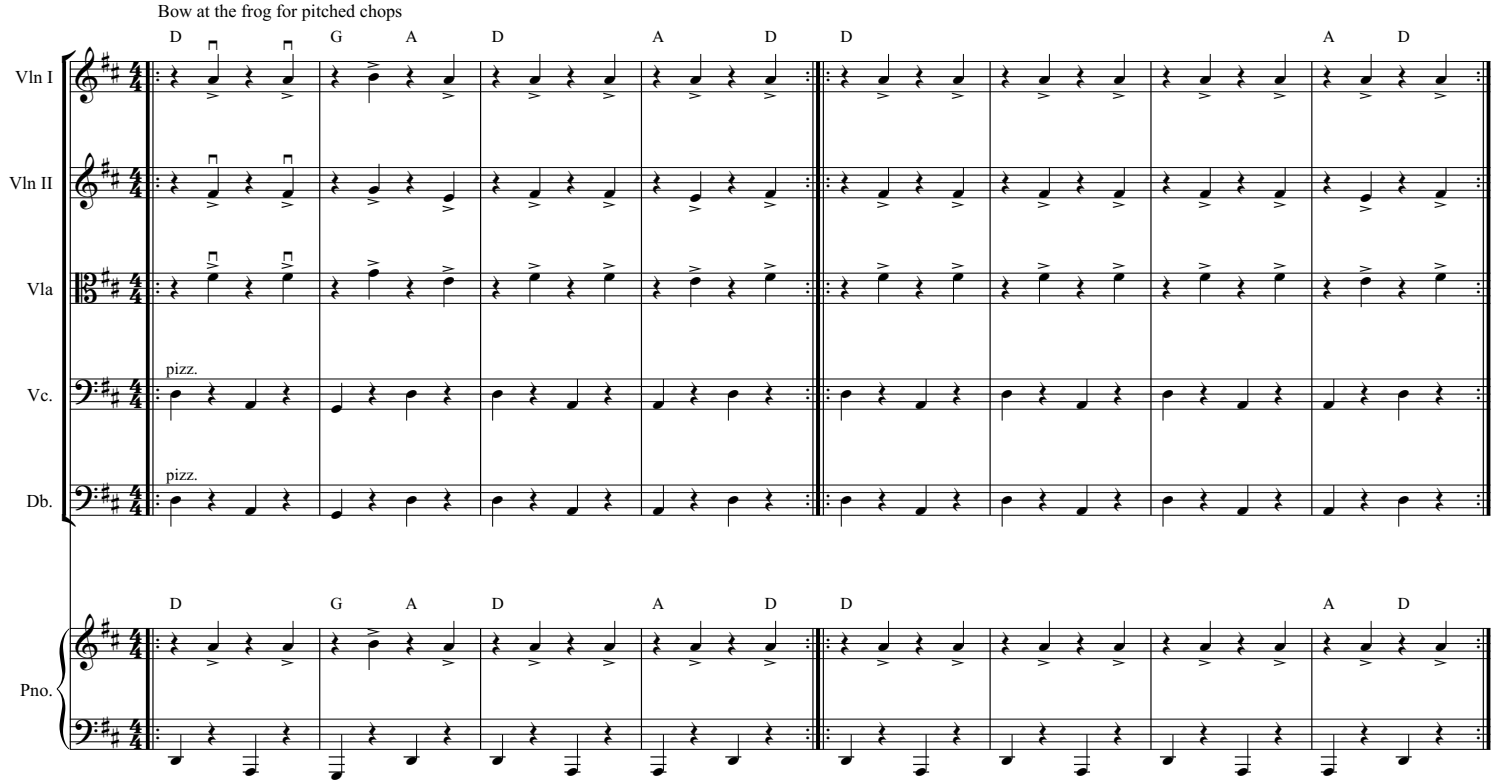


Thanks to Andy Reiner for providing this "Fiddle Feel" building block.

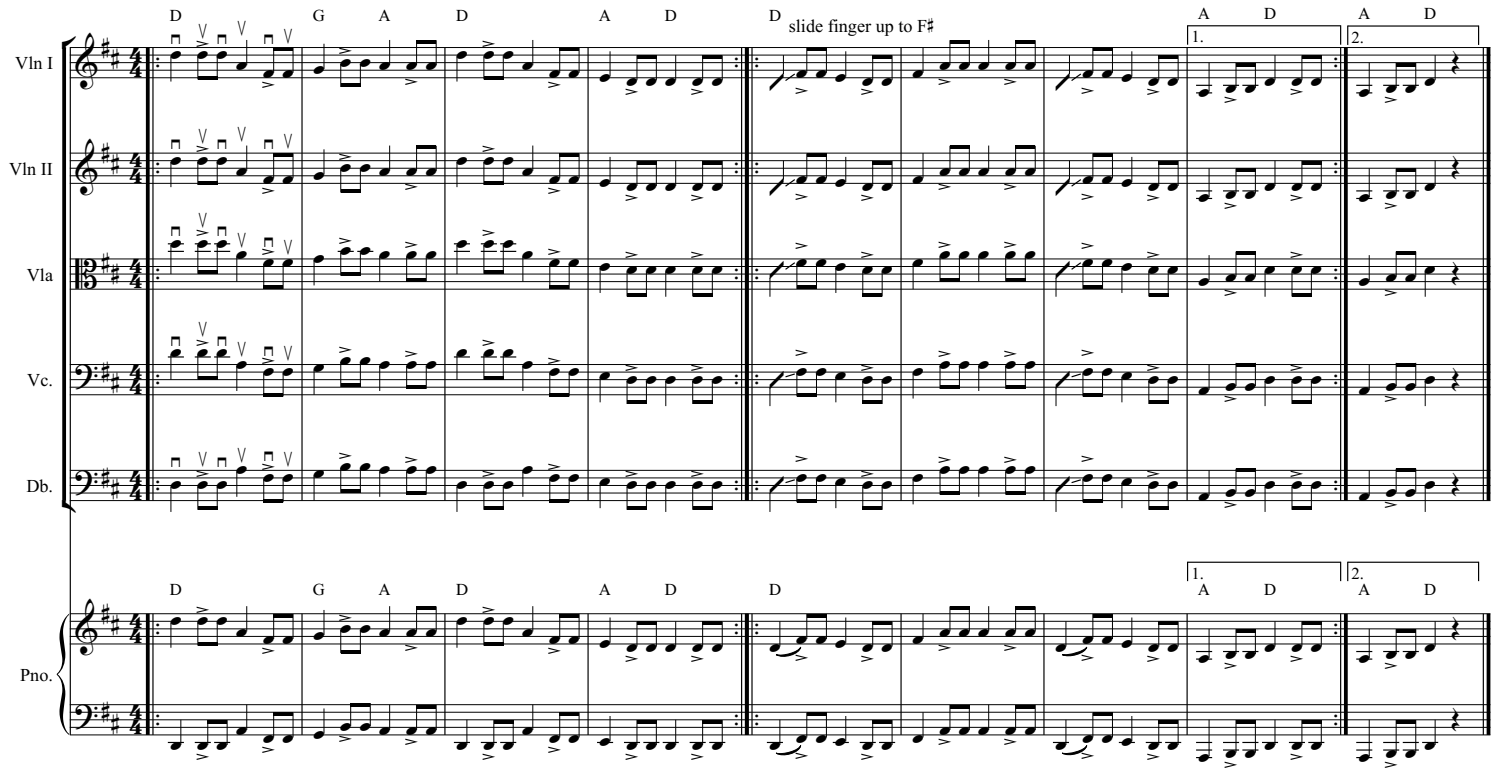
5. Bass Line



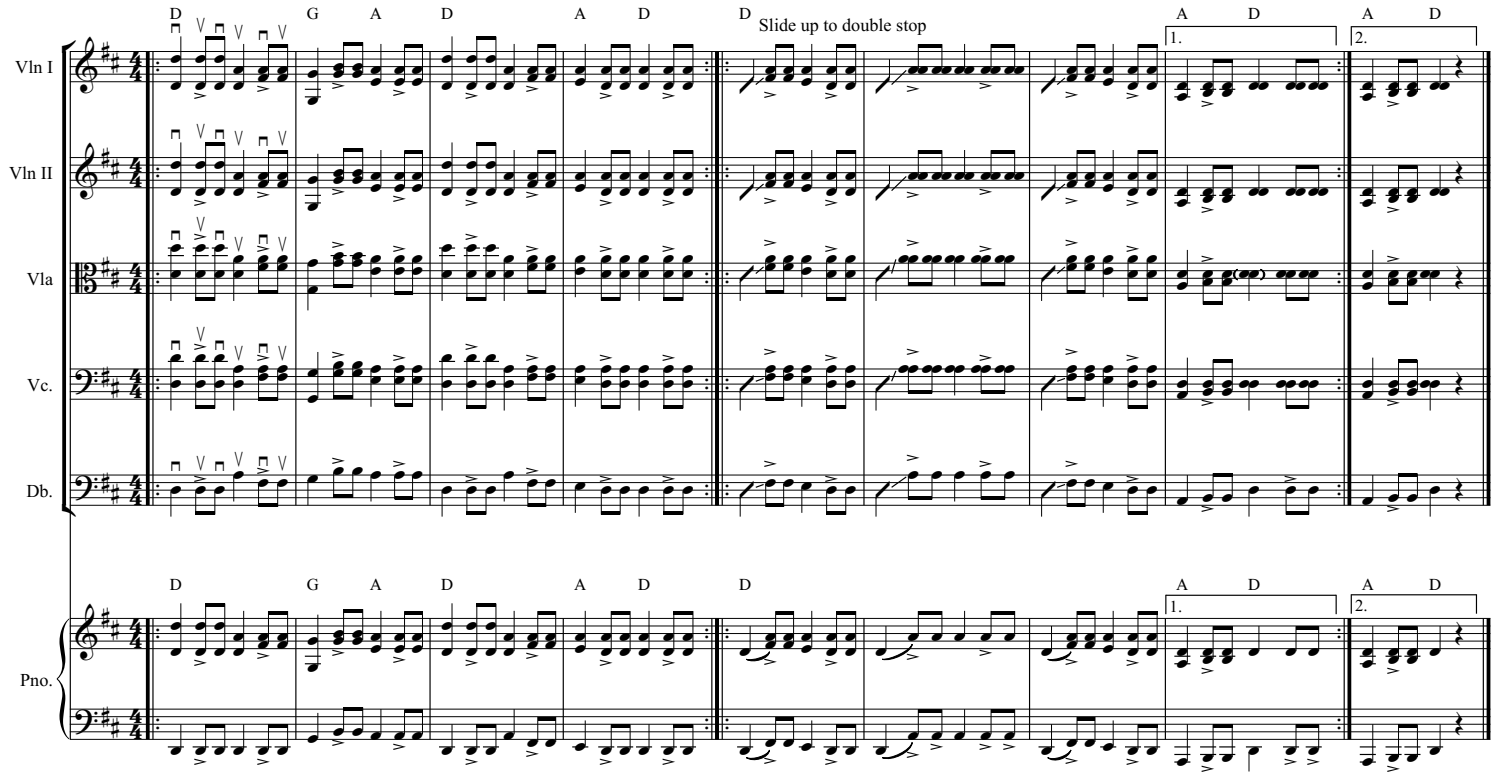
6. Back-Up - Chopping



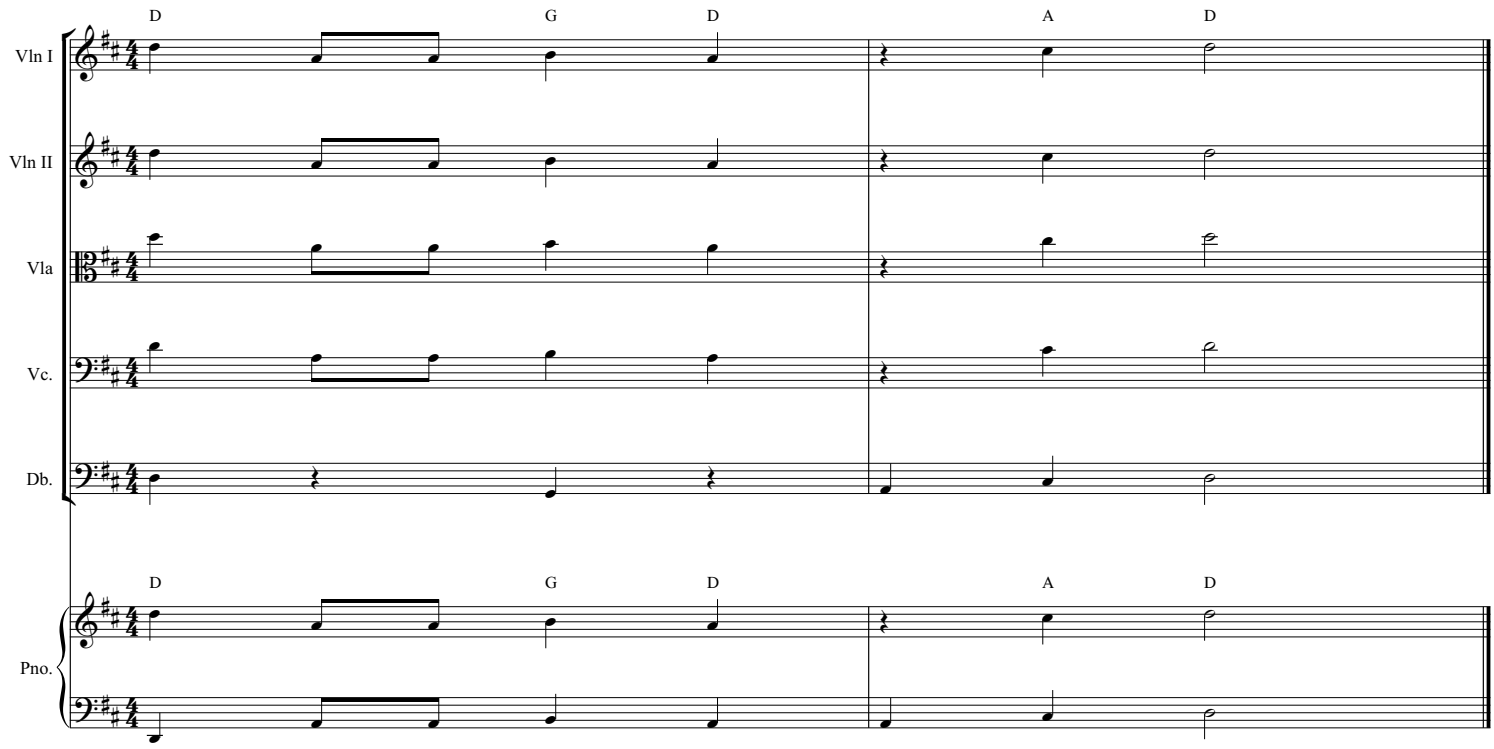
7. Break - Shuffle Style



8. Shuffle Break with Double Stops



9. Tag



CRIPPLE CREEK

FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN FIDDLE TUNE

Arranged by Jenny B Peters

INSTRUMENTATION

- **Violin 1**
- **Violin 2**
- **Viola**
- **Cello**
- **Double Bass**
- **Piano** (Optional / Rehearsal)

ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT

This arrangement of *Cripple Creek* is designed for developing string orchestras. It emphasizes stylistic fiddle techniques including the shuffle stroke, open-string drones, and rhythmic percussiveness.

The piece is structured to allow students to experience the melody in various sections, providing opportunities for every instrument to engage with the driving rhythmic pulse of American old-time music.

PERFORMANCE TIME: Approximately 2:15

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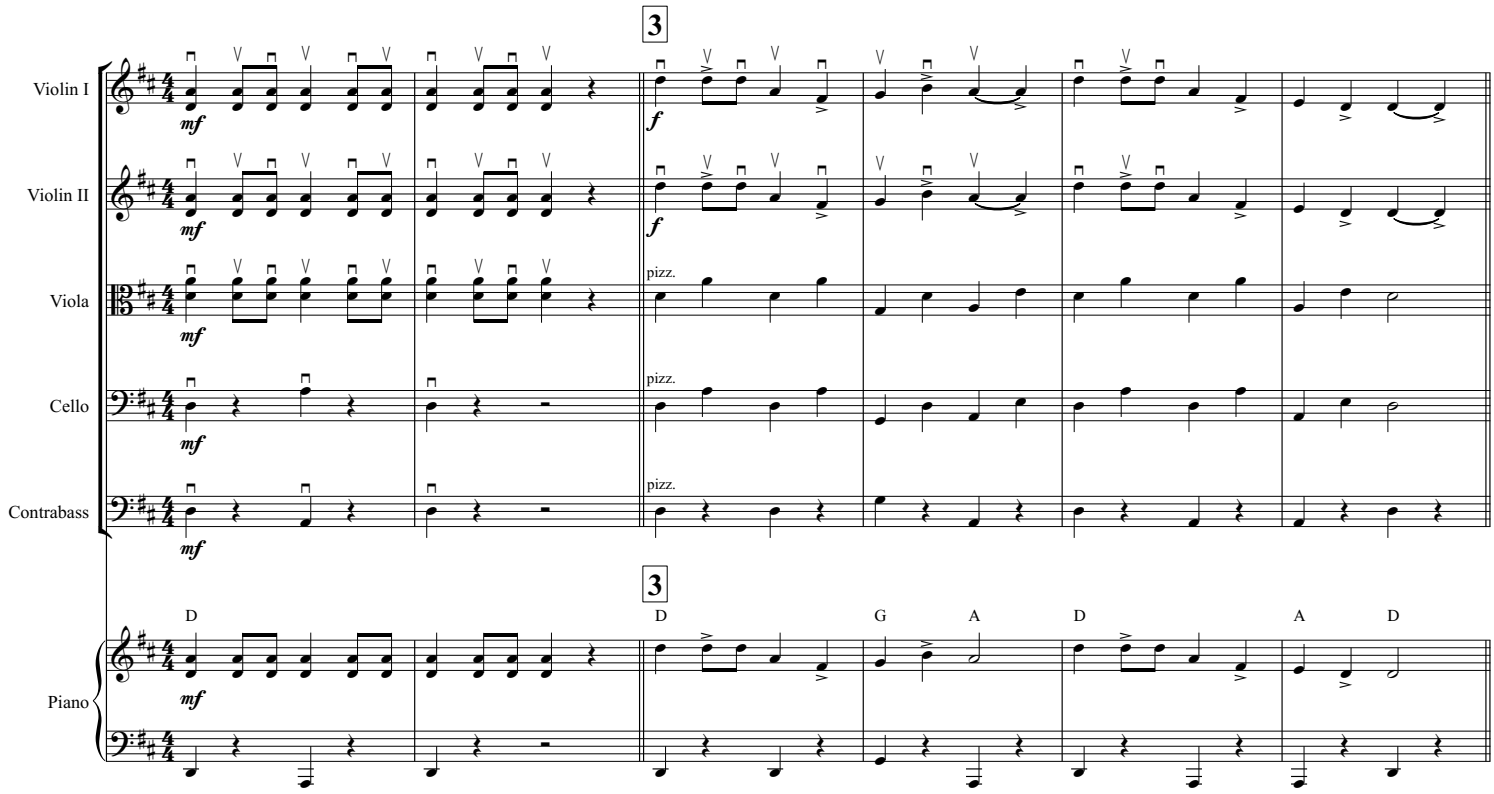
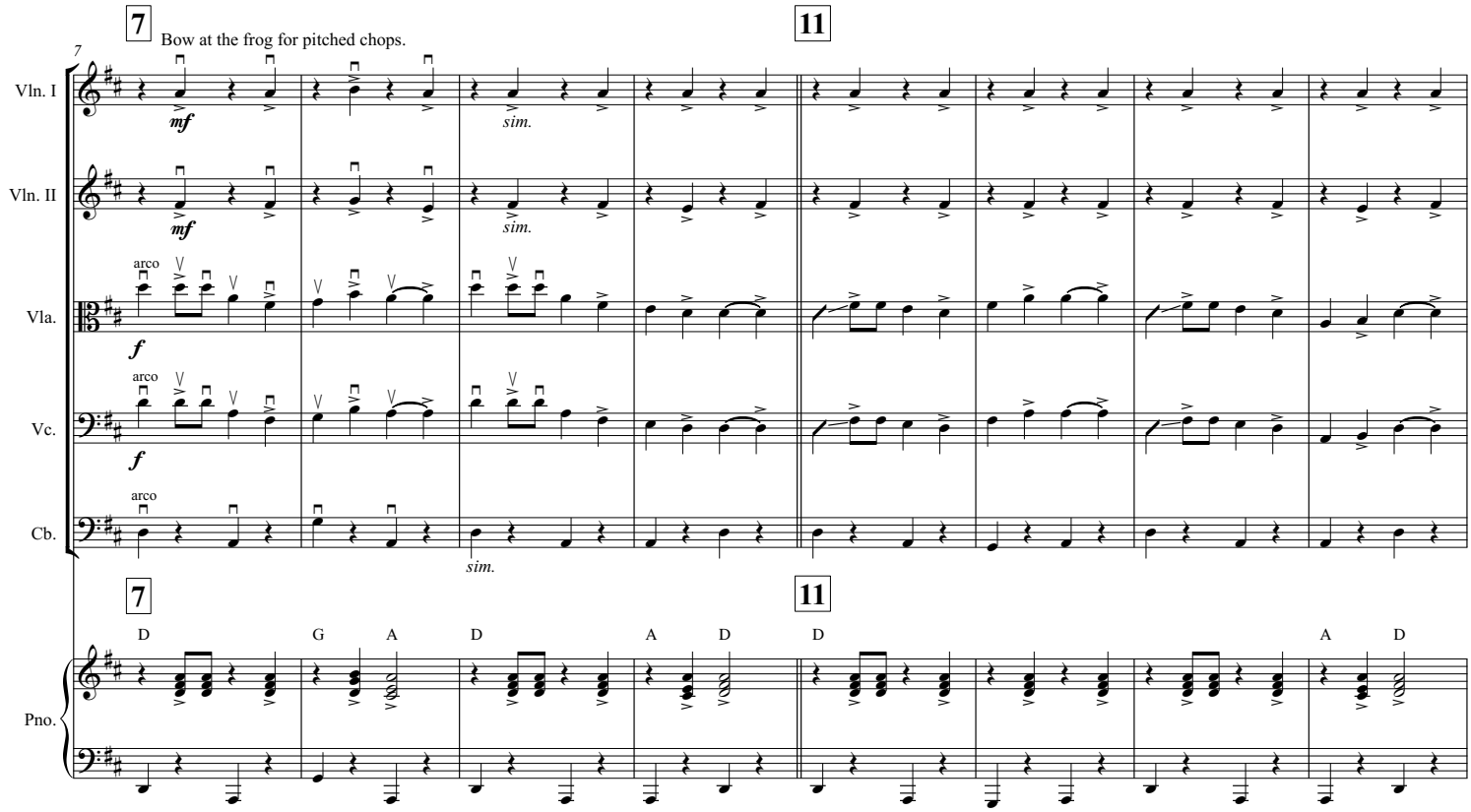
Cripple Creek

String Orchestra Arrangement

Jenny Peters





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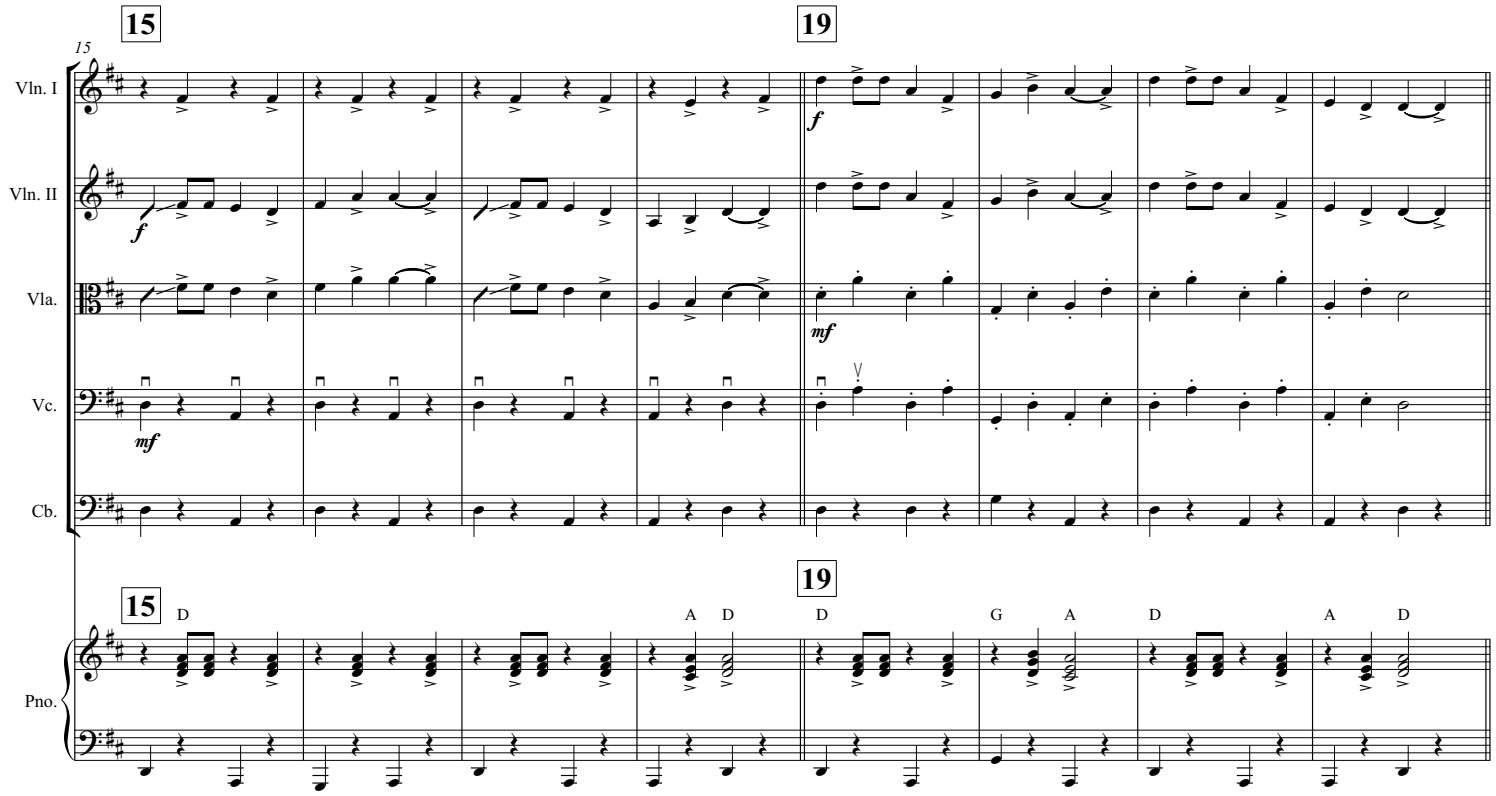
15
19
15
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Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
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D
A D
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G A
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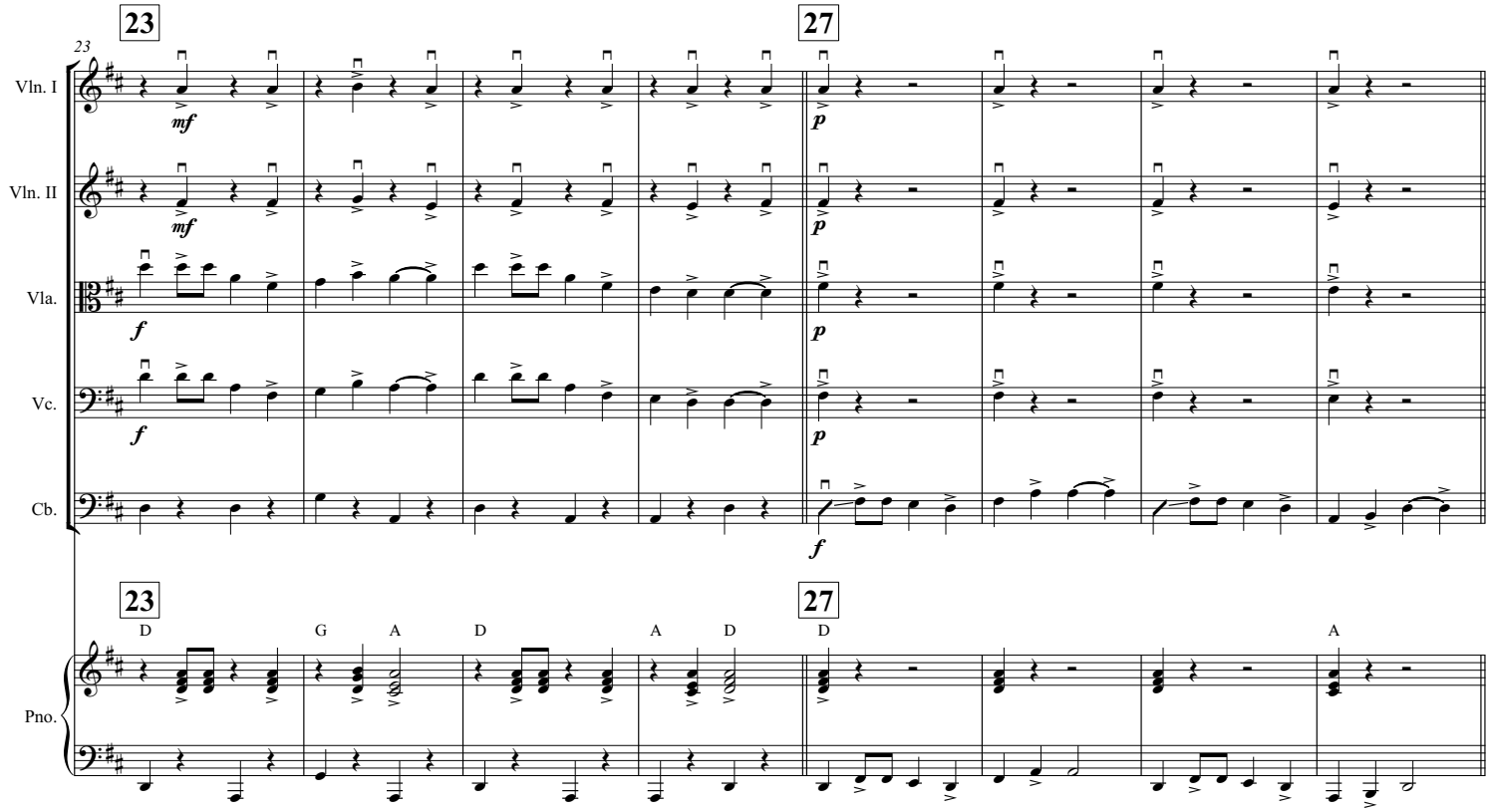
A D


23
27
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Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Pno.
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G A
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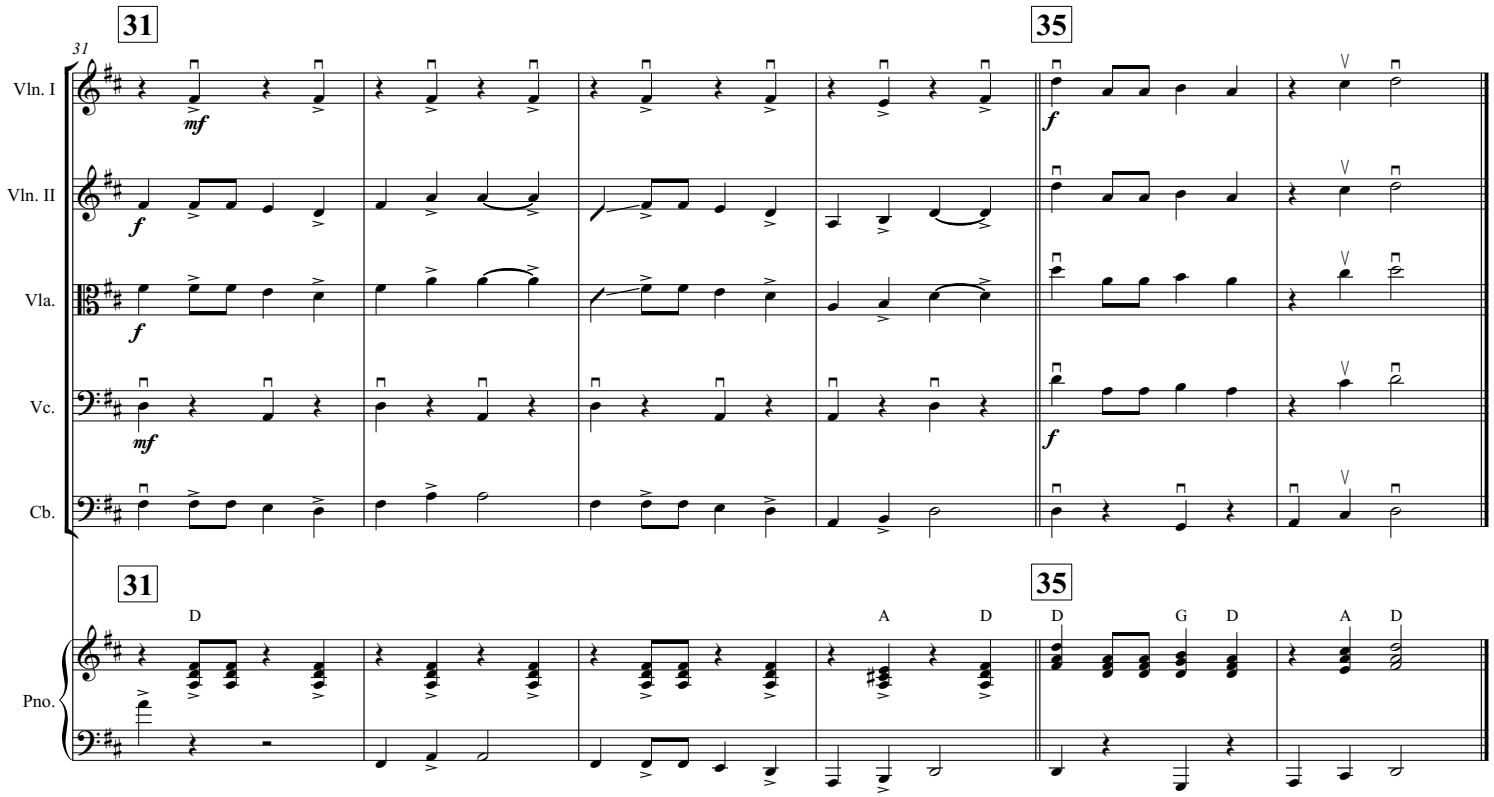
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Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
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