

CONDUCTOR

Grade 2

SO-1012

MUSIC FOR STRING ORCHESTRA

# ROCK, PAPER, STRINGERS!

By Thomas May

Duration - ca. 2:40

## INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola (Violin 3)

Cello

Bass

Drumset

Rehearsal Piano

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## ♪ Music Notes ♪

Inspired by the popular hand game, “Rock, Paper, Stringers!” is an excellent vehicle for introducing young string musicians to the art of improvisation. A catchy melody and rockin’ bassline lead the way to a two-chord solo section that allows students to begin improvising using only notes from the d minor pentatonic scale. Depending on readiness, students may start by only improvising for two measures. As they gain confidence, students can expand their improvisations in length and include the scales associated with each chord. At this point, be sure to highlight the importance of using guide tones (3rds and 7ths) as a great way to transition between the closely related chords. Additional ideas for how to practice these scales/chords are included on the next page.

Clearly, the piece derives its name from the popular hand game played at the beginning by the upper strings. However, the syllabic rhythm for the title can also be found in the bassline throughout the piece.



Rock, pa-per, string-ers Rock, pa-per string-ers Rock, pa-per, string-ers Shoot!

The act of improvising is critical to expanding the creative side of every musician. “Rock, Paper, Stringers” is a fun way to develop this potential!

For more music, resources, and composer information, please visit:

T  
H  
O  
M  
A  
S



# For Rock Paper Scissors Scales

## D minor Pentatonic Scale

5 7̣ 1 3̣ 4 5 7̣ 8(1) 3̣ 4 5  
 A C̣ D F̣ G A C̣ D F̣ G A

## D Blues Scale

5 7̣ 1 3̣ 4 #4 5 7̣ 8(1) 3̣ 4 5  
 A C̣ D F̣ G G# A C̣ D F̣ G A

## D<sup>7</sup> Scale (Lowered 7<sup>th</sup>)

5 6 7̣ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7̣ 8(1) 2 3 4 5  
 A B C̣ D E F# G A B C̣ D E F# G A

## G<sup>7</sup> Scale (Lowered 7<sup>th</sup>)

5 6 7̣ 1 2 3 4 5 6 7̣ 8(1) 2 3 4 5  
 D E F̣ G A B C D E F̣ G A B C D

### Some Ways to Practice the D<sup>7</sup> & G<sup>7</sup> Scales:

- 1) Practice the scales going up and down starting from 1, 3, 5, 7 (then from 2, 4, 6)
- 2) Practice the scales going down and up starting from 7, 5, 3, 1 (then from 6, 4, 2)
  - a) Practice starting on the beat. b) Practice starting on the offbeat.
- 3) Practice the pentatonic scale up and down starting from 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 (7, 5, 4, 3)
- 4) Do all of the above with two-note slurs, then three-note slurs, etc.
- 5) Focus on guide tones (3rds and 7ths) as a way of transitioning from one chord to the next.

**Some Basic Patterns:** Practice these patterns with the D<sup>7</sup> & G<sup>7</sup> scales above. Memorize these and use them in your solo along with the scales above.

- |   |      |       |       |        |
|---|------|-------|-------|--------|
| ① | 1358 | 1357  | 7531  | 1235   |
| ② | 3215 | 321↓5 | 3451  | 3458   |
| ③ | 5431 | 5438  | 56123 | 434531 |

(This sheet is reproducible)

For

# ROCK, PAPER, STRINGERS!

Steady Rock ♩ = 112

Thomas May (ASCAP)

Play "Rock, Paper, Scissors" on X notes

(one fist smack)

The musical score is for a piece titled "Rock, Paper, Stringers!" in 4/4 time with a tempo of 112 beats per minute. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Bass, Drum Set, and Rehearsal Piano. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes, with some measures containing rests marked with an 'X'. The drum set part features a steady beat of closed hi-hats. The rehearsal piano part includes a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include "Tap top of instrument" for the cello and "Snap Fingers!" for the piano.

Preview Only

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

9

6 7 8 10

The score is for a piece in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The key signature is G major. The score spans measures 6 through 10. Measures 6-8 are marked with a 'V' above the first two notes. Measures 9 and 10 are marked with 'mf'. The woodwinds (Clo. and Bs.) play a rhythmic eighth-note pattern. The strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., and Bs.) play a melodic line. The D.S. part features a 'Fill' in measure 9. The piano part consists of a block chord in measure 6 and a rhythmic accompaniment in the bass clef.

11 12 13 14 15

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

The image shows a musical score for five measures (11-15) of a piece titled "Rock, Paper, Stringers! - 6". The score is arranged in a system with seven staves. The instruments are: Vln. 1 (Violin 1), Vln. 2 (Violin 2), Vla. (Viola), Clo. (Cello), Bs. (Bass), D. S. (Drum Set), and Pno. (Piano). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is heavily watermarked with the text "For Preview Only" in a large, red, diagonal font across the center.

16 17 18 19 20

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

The image shows a musical score for a piece titled "Rock, Paper, Stringers! - 7". The score is arranged in a system with seven staves. The instruments are: Vln. 1 (Violin 1), Vln. 2 (Violin 2), Vla. (Viola), Clo. (Cello), Bs. (Bass), D. S. (Drum Set), and Pno. (Piano). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The score covers measures 16 through 20. A large red watermark "For Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the entire page. In measure 17, there is a circled number "17". In measure 19, there are two "V" marks above the staff. In measure 20, there are two "V" marks above the staff. The D. S. part includes "Toms - - - (Crash)" notation. The Pno. part is written in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

21 22 23 24

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

(Snare & Toms)



For

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

Loose Hi-Hat

26

27

28

29

Only

For

Preview

Only

For

Preview

Only

Musical score for 'Rock, Paper, Stringers!' - 10. The score is written for a string quartet (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello) and a double bass, with a drum set (D. S.) and piano (Pno.) accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The score is divided into measures 30 through 34. Measure 33 is circled. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. Performance markings include accents and hairpins. The drum set part includes a 'Closed Hi-Hat' section. The piano part includes a 'V' marking.

35 36 37 38 39

Vln. 1 *f*

Vln. 2 *divisi* *divisi*

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

For

To Coda 62



40 41 42 43 44

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

Vln. 2 *cresc.* *f*

Vla. *cresc.* *f*

Clo. *cresc.* *f*

Bs. *cresc.* *f*

D. S. *cresc.* *f* Fill -----

Pno. *cresc.* *f*

Only

For

45

Solo Section!

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> D<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

Only

51 D<sup>7</sup> 52 D<sup>7</sup> 53 D<sup>7</sup> 54 G<sup>7</sup> 55 D<sup>7</sup>

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Clo.

Bs.

D. S.

Pno.

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

*mf*

(rim knock)

For

(optional repeat)

*D.S. al Coda*

Musical score for measures 56-61. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Clo., Bs., D.S., and Pno. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#). The time signature is 4/4. The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark "For Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Measures 56-61. Chord progressions: D<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, D<sup>7</sup>, D<sup>7</sup>. The score includes parts for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Clo., Bs., D.S., and Pno. The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, and dynamic markings. A large red watermark "For Preview Only" is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Only

62 63 64 65

Vln. 1  
Vln. 2  
Vla.  
Clo.  
Bs.  
D. S.  
Pno.

*cresc.* *f* *ff*