

The Water Is Wide

Traditional

Arranged by Jon D. Nelson

STRING ORCHESTRA IN D

Full Score · String edition 2026

Violin I · Violin II · Viola · Cello · Double bass

Music for Gatherings

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String orchestra in D

INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Double bass is written one octave above sounding pitch. No low extension is required.

DIVISI AND BOWING

div. 2 divides a section into two groups; *unis.* reunites it. Where two lines or chord tones are shown, divide between players rather than treating them as required double stops.

Short slurs indicate bow groups. Use broad, connected separate bows elsewhere. Down-bows mark structural entries; sustain long notes and ties with discreet staggered bow changes as needed. Section leaders may adapt the suggested bowings to their players.

CHARACTER AND BALANCE

Keep the opening flowing and gentle. At rehearsal B, bring the cello melody into relief above the accompanying strings. At rehearsal C, give the upper violin line a warm, expressive sound with generous bow.

TEMPO AND EDITION

Begin at quarter note = 112; broaden to quarter note = 58 at rehearsal A (bar 7). Observe the printed ritardandos in bars 4 and 29 and the expressive indications throughout.

Based on Jon D. Nelson's spring 2020 wind-ensemble arrangement, dated May 1, 2020. This string-orchestra edition retains all 30 bars and transposes the arrangement down one semitone: the opening is in D major and the section at bar 23 is in A major.

Traditional melody; arrangement by Jon D. Nelson.

♩ = 112

dolce, div. 2

Flowing, as a gentle river

legato

rit.

unis.

Violin I *pp* dolce, legato *mf*

Violin II *pp* dolce, legato *mf* *mp*

Viola *pp* dolce, legato *mf* *mp*

Violoncello *pp* dolce, legato *mf* *mp*

Double Bass *pp* *mp*

A ♩ = 58

div. 2 widening... unis. Broadly div. 2

Vln. I *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *mf* *mf* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp*

Db. *mp* *mf* *mf* *mp*

9 unis. div. 2 3

Vln. I unis. div. 2 3 unis.

Vln. II unis. div. 2 3 unis.

Vla. div. 2

Vc.

Db.

13 unis. lightly rowing... p

Vln. I p unis. p

Vln. II p unis. p

Vla. div. 2 p

Vc. unis. cantabile mf

Db. p

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

21

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mp

div. 2

mf

espressivo warmly...

div. 2

mf

unis.

div. 2

mf

mp

mf

mp

24

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

mf

This musical system covers measures 24 to 27. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is D major (two sharps). Measures 24 and 25 show active melodic lines in the violins and a supporting harmonic texture in the lower strings. Measures 26 and 27 feature a crescendo, with the violins and violas playing a sustained note while the cellos and double basses play a descending line. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) for the violins and violas, and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the lower strings at the end of the system.

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

rit.

unis.

mp

p

div. 2

mp

p

unis.

mp

p

This musical system covers measures 28 to 30. Measures 28 and 29 show a gradual decrescendo across all string parts, indicated by a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and a hairpin. Measure 30 is a unison passage for all strings, marked *unis.* and *p* (piano). The Viola part in measure 30 includes a *div. 2* (divisi 2) marking. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano) for the various parts.

Rehearsal notes

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