

# STRING ORCHESTRA

# WHERE THE RIVER BENDS

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*composed by* JONATHAN T. MARTIN

## STANDARD INSTRUMENTATION

VIOLIN 1

CELLO

VIOLIN 2

BASS

VIOLA

Opt. Piano Reduction

FLEX+ (*FlexPlus*) Parts Also Included

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SCAN ME

# Program Notes

*Where the River Bends* invites listeners on a peaceful journey along the water's edge, where gentle currents carry us through a landscape of quiet reflection and natural beauty. The piece opens with a flowing melodic motif that evokes the movement of a river: steady, graceful, and ever-changing. As the piece unfolds, this serene theme passes through different voices of the ensemble, much like water moving around stones and bending through the landscape. As the music flows to its climactic moment near the end of the work, the warm, connected notes of the ensemble was meant to mirror the smooth surface of water reflecting the light of the sun as it rises to greet a new morning.

Throughout the work, the music maintains a contemplative character, building gradually toward an emotional peak before returning to the tranquil spirit of the opening. Like a river that swells with the curves of the landscape yet remains true to its course, *Where the River Bends* offers a moment of peaceful meditation and a reminder of the constant, quiet beauty found in nature's simplest movements.

This lyrical work showcases the ensemble's ability to create a unified, expressive sound through careful attention to phrasing, balance, and the art of sustained melodic lines meant to inspire players and audiences alike.

## About the Composer

**Jonathan T. Martin** is a composer, arranger, and marching arts designer based out of Nashville, TN. He received his undergraduate in both Instrumental & Vocal Music Education in 2022 from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri where he was named the Outstanding Graduate in Music Education and holds a Master's in Commercial Music Composition & Arranging from Belmont University in Nashville, TN. He currently resides in Nashville as a full-time freelance composer/arranger, music educator, and music industry entrepreneur.

Jonathan is the Founder and Editor of Stronger Music Company, an educational publishing company based out of Nashville, TN where he oversees both the Concert and Marching Band catalogs as well as the String Orchestra Catalog. In addition to his work as an educational composer and advocate of music education, he is a freelance composer & arranger who has worked on projects for companies such as Norwegian Cruise Line and the Walt Disney Company, and has served several Grammy and Dove award-winning artists. Additionally, his arrangements can be heard on the EA Sports "College Football 26" video game. On any given day, his music can be heard on the marching band field, in sports stadiums, at churches, and in performance halls all across the country. May you find excellence abounding in Jonathan's work and a renewed sense of God's gift to mankind reflected through the notes and music he produces.

# Score

Grade 2

Duration: 2'44"

## STRONGER MUSIC STRING ORCHESTRA

# Where the River Bends

JONATHAN T. MARTIN

(ASCAP)

### Adagio

Musical score for measures 1-5. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and an optional Piano Reduction. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Adagio. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The score is divided into five measures, each numbered in a box at the bottom.

Musical score for measures 6-9. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, and an optional Piano Reduction. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is Adagio. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The Double Bass part includes a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking. The score is divided into four measures, each numbered in a box at the bottom.

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Musical score for measures 10-13. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 10 includes the instruction "arco" for the D.B. part. Measure numbers 10, 11, 12, and 13 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

Musical score for measures 14-17, marked with a section symbol **B**. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in measures 14, 15, and 16. Measure numbers 14, 15, 16, and 17 are indicated at the bottom of the score.

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Musical score for measures 18-21. The score is for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 18 starts with a double bar line. Measure 19 has a first ending bracket labeled 'L2' above the Violin 2 staff. Measure 20 has a first ending bracket labeled 'L2' above the Violin 2 staff. Measure 21 has a first ending bracket labeled 'L2' above the Violin 2 staff. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

Musical score for measures 22-25. The score is for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 22 starts with a double bar line and a section marker 'C' in a box. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The string parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The dynamic marking *f* (forte) is present at the beginning of each staff in measures 22, 23, 24, and 25.

1 Vln. 1

2 Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

26 27 28 29

**D**

1 Vln. 1

2 Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Pno.

30 31 32 33 34

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**E**

Musical score for measures 35-38. The score is for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano) for measures 35-38. Measure numbers 35, 36, 37, and 38 are indicated in boxes at the bottom of the score.

Musical score for measures 39-42. The score is for a string quartet and piano. The instruments are Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 39-42. Measure numbers 39, 40, 41, and 42 are indicated in boxes at the bottom of the score.

**F**

*rit.*

Musical score for strings and piano. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The first system includes Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The second system includes Piano (Pno.). The score begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and ends with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The music features a consistent eighth-note rhythmic pattern in the strings and a piano accompaniment of chords and eighth notes.

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44

45

46

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