

The Composer

Shirl Jae Atwell earned a bachelor of music education from Kansas State Teachers College, a master of music theory/composition degree from the University of Louisville, and completed four years of post-graduate work in composition at the University of South Carolina.

An active composer with many commissions and publications to her credit, Ms. Atwell was named the 1996 winner of the National School Orchestra Association composition contest with her string orchestra piece *Modus à 4*. She is also the 1997 winner of the Texas Orchestra Directors Association contest with a string orchestra piece entitled *Driften*. Most recently, *Lucy*, with music by Ms. Atwell and choreography by Alun Jones, was premiered by the Louisville Ballet in January, 1999. Inspired by the discovery of a 3.2 million-year old skeleton, *Lucy* was the subject of a Kentucky Education Television documentary that was aired on November 10, 1999.

In June 2000, the televised production of *Lucy* was awarded the Arts & Culture Emmy by the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. In July, a Certificate of Merit was awarded to *Lucy* by Unda-USA, the National Catholic Association for Communicators. In 2001 *Lucy* was awarded 2nd place by the National Education Television Association for program performance. In 2002, the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra of North Carolina recorded the music to the ballet *Lucy* which is now available on Albany Records. The CD also includes the orchestral suite *Movements Four South*, and three string orchestra works: *Pulsar*, *Meander*, and *Driften*.

Ms. Atwell serves as a full-time string orchestra educator with the Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky. She maintains active membership with ASCAP, Music Educators National Conference, ASTA with NSOA, Texas Orchestra Directors Association, and Kentucky Music Educators Association.

The Composition

Rocken is based on a 12-bar blues form with a rock beat. The rhythmic figure that is first heard in the bass and cello parts is what keeps the piece moving forward. Think of this rhythmic figure as the sound from a trap drum set. Maintain a constant tempo and the syncopation will naturally happen. Be careful not to rush the 16th note leading into each measure of the rhythmic figure. Once that is established, the piece moves forward on its own and becomes music that causes one to tap his foot and snap his fingers. *Rocken* is rock music for string orchestra.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

Recken

Full Conductor Score
Approx. time – 3:10

Shirl Jae Atwell

(♩ = 108)

The score is for measures 1 through 9. It features four staves: Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 108. Measures 1-4 show the initial entry of the strings. Measures 5-9 show a more active musical texture. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the score.

Violins 1
Violins 2
Viola
Cello
String Bass

5
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

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10 11 12 13 14

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

15 16 17 18 19

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

1 Vlns. 20 21 22 23 24

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

1 Vlns. 25 26 27 28 29

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

30 31 32 33 34

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

35 36 37 38 39

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

40 41 42 43

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 40 to 43. It features five staves: Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measures 40 and 41 show rests for the Violins and Viola, while the Cello and String Bass play. From measure 41 onwards, all instruments play. The Violins and Viola parts consist of eighth-note patterns with accents. The Cello and String Bass parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present at the start of measure 41. A large, semi-transparent watermark is visible across the score.

44 45 46 47 48

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

This block contains the second system of a musical score, covering measures 44 to 48. It features five staves: Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). All instruments play throughout this system. The Violins and Viola parts continue with eighth-note patterns, including some sixteenth-note runs. The Cello and String Bass parts continue with their rhythmic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the start of measure 44. A large, semi-transparent watermark is visible across the score.

49 50 51 52

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

53 54 55 56 57

1 Vlns.

2 Vlns.

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

hit side of instrument with left hand

hit side of instrument with left hand

58 59 60 61 62

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f

63 64 65 66 67

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

68 69 70 71 72

1 Vlns. 1

2 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

73 74 75 76 77

1 Vlns. 1

2 Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

mf

mf

f

78 79 80 81 82

1 2 3 4 2 3

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

f *ff* *f* *f*

83 84 85 86 87

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

SAMPLE

KJS