

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 2½
Full Conductor Score
SO288F
\$6.00

American Folk Song
Robert Sieving, Arranger

Colorado Trail





The Arranger

Robert Sieving (b. 1942) is a Minneapolis-based composer, arranger, and retired high school choral music educator. He received his B.S. and M.S. in Vocal Music Education from St. Cloud State University.

In addition to his pieces for string orchestra, Mr. Sieving is active as a composer and arranger of choral works. His compositions are in the active catalogs of a number of major publishers, including *I Lift Up My Eyes*, *Calloway County*, *A Swedish Melody*, and *The Water is Wide*, all of which are published by the Neil A. Kjos Music Company. He has served as president of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) of Minnesota, and is a past recipient of the ACDA of Minnesota “Conductor of the Year Award” and the Plymouth Music Series (now VocalEssence) “Award for Creative Programming.”

The Arrangement

The American folk song “Colorado Trail” lives on in the company of other significant folk song gems such as “Shenandoah” and “Down in the Valley.” This arrangement seeks to be a part of educators’ increasing efforts to pass examples from the vast treasure of American folk music down to today’s generation of students, many of whom are unfamiliar with our important folk song heritage.

Colorado Trail should be played in a relaxed, singing style (or optional swing style – see below for example). The arrangement is playable in first position throughout, with a single measure third position exception in the cello part (m. 19). All parts share in the all-important melody. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their B \flat and F \sharp fingerings.

Swing Rhythm: $\text{♪♪} = \overset{\sim}{\text{♪}} \overset{\sim}{\text{♪}}$

I hope you and your students enjoy *Colorado Trail*!

Instrumentation List (Set C)

- 8 – 1st Violin
- 8 – 2nd Violin
- 5 – 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)
- 5 – Viola
- 5 – Cello
- 5 – String Bass
- 2 – Percussion (optional):
Wood Blocks
- 1 – Rehearsal Piano
- 1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

Learning Bank: American Folk Music and Cowboy Songs



1888, by John C.H. Graybill

Folk music is one of America's oldest traditions, dating all the way back to the arrival of the first immigrants from Europe. Although the music was developed in America – particularly the mountainous Appalachian region – folk is a truly international style, with roots in English, Irish, Scottish, and African traditions. Just like the country itself, folk music represents a “melting pot” of influences and cultures. The style is particularly well suited to cultural mixing because of its unique qualities of transmission. Unlike classical music, where great works are preserved in written form, folk music is passed on through the decades primarily through oral transmission – in other words, songs are learned “by ear” and no written music is necessary.

Cowboy songs such as “Colorado Trail” are a colorful and fascinating part of America's folk legacy. Beginning in the mid to late 19th century when the West was largely an unsettled frontier, cowboys sang songs on ranches across the region. Like all folk music traditions based on hard-working professions (mining, logging, sailing), the songs helped cowboys relax during their long hours of tough labor. The lyrics for these timeless tunes reflect the harsh, rugged reality of life as a cowboy. In the early 20th century, scholars and musicians collected and published the first books of cowboy songs. Soon, these gems of the American West gained popularity, and the age of the “singing cowboy” was at hand. With just a rough voice, an old guitar, and a story to tell, singing cowboys became a common feature on the radio and in movies during the 1920s through the 1940s. Some of their classic tunes, like “Home on the Range,” are still well-known today.

Cowboy songs help us to understand the perseverance and grit of frontier life, even as that lifestyle is rapidly disappearing. This legacy of hard work and independence is a major part of the American spirit. When you perform a cowboy song like *Colorado Trail*, you join in this spirit and become a link in the long chain of our beautiful folk music tradition.

Colorado Trail

Full Conductor Score
Approx. time – 2:50

Cowboy Song
Arranged by Robert Sieving

1 In a relaxed style * ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 92$)

Violins
1 p mf p
2 p mf p

Viola
 p mf p

Cello
 mf p

String Bass
pizz. mp p

**Percussion:
Wood Blocks
(optional)**
In a relaxed style * ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 92$)
 mp

**Rehearsal
Piano**
In a relaxed style * ($\text{♩} = \text{c. } 92$)
 p mf

* A "swing" style may be used if desired.

© 2010 Neil A. Kjos Music Company, 4382 Jutland Drive, San Diego, California 92117.

International copyright secured. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.

WARNING! The contents of this publication are protected by copyright law. To copy or reproduce them by any method is an infringement of the copyright law. Anyone who reproduces copyrighted matter is subject to substantial penalties and assessments for each infringement.

5 6 7 8

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

W. Blk. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

9 10 11 12

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

W. Blk.

Pno.

13 14 15 16

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

W. Blk.

Pno.

17 18 19 20

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

W. Blk.

Pno.

p

p

p

p

-1 4 1 -2

(h)

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet and piano. The score is divided into two systems, each containing six staves. The first system covers measures 13 to 16, and the second system covers measures 17 to 20. The instruments are Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, Double Bass (Str. Bass), Wood Block (W. Blk.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamics. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'SAMPLE' is oriented diagonally across the page. In the second system, measures 19 and 20, the Cello part includes fingering numbers: -1, 4, 1, and -2. The Piano part includes a fingering number (h) in measure 18. Dynamics like *p* (piano) are indicated in measures 19 and 20 for the strings and piano.

Musical score for measures 21-29, featuring Vlns. 1 & 2, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass, W. Blk., and Pno. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *pp*, and *pizz.*, along with performance instructions like *arco*, *div.*, and *arco, unis.*. Measure numbers 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are clearly marked. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid on the page.

Musical score for strings and piano, measures 30 to 38. The score is written for Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, String Bass (Str. Bass), Wood Block (W. Blk.), and Piano (Pno.).

Measures 30-33:

- Vlns. 1 & 2:** Violins play a melodic line. Measure 31 includes the instruction *div.* (divisi). Measure 33 includes the instruction *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *unis.* (unison).
- Vla.:** Viola plays a melodic line. Measure 32 includes the instruction *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *div.* (divisi). Measure 33 includes the instruction *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *unis.* (unison).
- Cello:** Cello plays a melodic line. Measure 32 includes the instruction *f* (forte). Measure 33 includes the instruction *mp* (mezzo-piano).
- Str. Bass:** String Bass plays a melodic line. Measure 32 includes the instruction *f* (forte). Measure 33 includes the instruction *sfp* (sforzando-piano).
- W. Blk.:** Wood Block plays a rhythmic pattern.
- Pno.:** Piano plays a harmonic accompaniment. Measure 32 includes the instruction *f* (forte). Measure 33 includes the instruction *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Measures 34-38:

- Vlns. 1 & 2:** Violins play a melodic line. Measure 35 includes the instruction *mf* (mezzo-forte).
- Vla.:** Viola plays a melodic line. Measure 35 includes the instruction *mf* (mezzo-forte).
- Cello:** Cello plays a melodic line. Measure 35 includes the instruction *sfp* (sforzando-piano).
- Str. Bass:** String Bass plays a melodic line. Measure 35 includes the instruction *sfp* (sforzando-piano).
- W. Blk.:** Wood Block is silent.
- Pno.:** Piano plays a harmonic accompaniment.

39 40 41^V 42 **More Spirited** (♩ = c. 100) 43

Vlns. 1 *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

Vlns. 2 *sfp* *sfp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

Vla. *sfp* *sfp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

Cello *f* *sfp* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

Str. Bass *mp* *mf* *mp* *f*

W. Blk. *mf*

Pno. *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

44 45 46 47

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

W. Blk.

Pno.

48 49 50 51

1 Vlns. 2 Vlns. Vla. Cello Str. Bass W. Blk. Pno.

52 53 54 55 56

V p V p p p

(4) 4 (D)

51 51 51

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a string quartet and woodwinds. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 48 to 51, and the second system covers measures 52 to 56. The instruments are Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, String Bass, Woodwind (W. Blk.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. In measure 50, the Cello and String Bass parts have a 'V' (vibrato) marking and a '4' (fourth finger) marking. In measure 51, the Cello and String Bass parts have a '(D)' marking. In measure 55, the Violin 1 and 2 parts have a 'V' (vibrato) marking and a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking. In measure 56, the Cello and String Bass parts have a 'p' (piano) dynamic marking. There are three boxed '51' markings in the right margin of the first system. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'SAMPLE' is overlaid across the entire page.

57 58 59 60 61

Vlns. 1 *mp* *p* *f*

Vlns. 2 *mp* *p* *f*

Vla. *mp* *p* *f*

Cello *mp* *p* *f*

Str. Bass arco *p* *f*

W. Blk. 59

Pno. *mp* *p* *f*

62 63 (V) 64 65 unis. 66

Vlns. 1 *sub. pp* *ppp*

Vlns. 2 *sub. pp* *ppp*

Vla. *sub. pp* *ppp*

Cello *sub. pp* *ppp*

Str. Bass pizz. *sub. p* arco *ppp*

W. Blk. *pp* *ppp*

Pno. *sub. pp* *ppp*

sub. p

SAMPLE

 **KIDS**