

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 2½
Full Conductor Score
SO300F
\$6.00

M. L. Daniels

Lights on the Water





The Composer

M. L. Daniels was born in 1931 in Cleburne, TX. He received his undergraduate degree from Abilene Christian University (ACU) and his doctorate from the University of North Texas. In 1959, he joined the music faculty at ACU after directing bands at Clarksville High School (TX) for 3½ years. He remained at ACU for the next 34 years, assisting with the band for the first four years, directing the university orchestra for three years, and serving as music department chairman for fifteen years (1964-79). While at ACU, he taught music theory, conducting, orchestration, counterpoint, forms and analysis, class brass, class strings, and composition. As a member of the music faculty, he was presented with the outstanding teacher award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Daniels now has over 100 published compositions to his credit, including hymns, compositions for band, full orchestra, string orchestra, string quartet, brass solo, brass ensemble, chorus, and solo voice. He has won first prize four times in the NSOA Composition Contest. In 1999 and again in 2007, he won the full orchestra composition contest sponsored by the Texas Orchestra Directors Association. In 2000, he won the Merle J. Isaac Composition Contest (sponsored by the ASTA with NSOA) with a piece for string orchestra.

Dr. Daniels retired from ACU in 1993 and moved to Austin, TX, where he lives with his wife, Elaine. He is presently the Composer-in-Residence for the Williamson County Symphony Orchestra. He can usually be found on the golf course or in his studio, where he continues to compose.

The Composition

Lights on the Water was written for young people who want something fun to practice and play, and has enough dissonances to keep from sounding like “beginner’s music.” It also has enough pizzicato to give students some welcome relief from the bowed sections.

In the introduction (mm. 1-22), be sure that the dissonances are emphasized. For instance, in m. 2, the 1st violin’s C against the 2nd violin’s B should be played strongly, so that the relief found in its resolution is satisfying. Do not let the students be shy about playing these dissonances! They should be balanced with the rest of the sections; be sure that the intonation at these places is as good as you can make it.

In adjudicating orchestras, one of the things I notice most is that the dynamics are often ignored. The drama in the music’s production is closely related to the quality of the dynamics. In m. 28, it is difficult to get all players to decrescendo at the same rate. This will require some practice. As a helpful exercise, have your students sing this dynamic shift (*mf* to *mp*) within five beats before playing. Students can practice by singing quarter notes on the same pitch using the syllable “la,” beginning with a moderately loud dynamic and ending moderately soft. This will help them to understand how much effort is involved.

At mm. 29-30, the music crescendos from *mp* to *ff* within five beats. Be sure that you don’t reach the climax *too soon*. This is the most common mistake made in dynamic changes. The loudest that a student can play without distortion should be reserved for the first note in m. 30. Practice until each note in the crescendo is louder than the last, and let the crescendo “blossom” just as you reach m. 30.

Now have some fun!

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.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, please visit www.kjos.com.

Lights on the Water

Full Conductor Score
Approx. time – 3:15

M. L. Daniels

1 Slowly (♩ = 60)

The score is for measures 1 through 8. It features four staves: Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Slowly' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The dynamic is marked 'mf' (mezzo-forte). Measures 1-4 show the initial entry of the strings. Measures 5-8 continue the melodic and harmonic development. The Cello and String Bass parts include 'pizz.' (pizzicato) markings in measures 2-4 and 'arco V' (arco with bow) markings in measures 4 and 8. A large 'SAMPLE' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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This musical score is divided into three systems, each containing five staves for different instruments: Violins 1 and 2, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The first system (measures 9-12) features a forte (*f*) dynamic across all parts. The second system (measures 13-16) starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. In measure 13, the Cello and String Bass parts are marked *pizz.* (pizzicato), while the other instruments continue with *mf*. In measure 16, the Cello and String Bass parts transition to *arco* (arco) with a *V* (breath mark) above the notes. The third system (measures 17-20) continues with *mf* dynamics. In measure 19, the Cello and String Bass parts have a *V* mark above the notes. In measure 20, the Cello and String Bass parts have a *V* mark above the notes, and the Viola part has a *V* mark above the notes.

23 **Faster** (♩ = 90)

21 22 23 24

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

25 26 27 28

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

29 30 31 32

Vlns. 1 *mp* *ff* *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mp* *ff* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *ff* *mf*

Cello *mp* *ff* *mf*

Str. Bass *ff* *mf*

33

Vlins. 1 *pizz.* *mp* 34 35 36

Vlins. 2 *pizz.* *mp* *f*

Vla. *pizz.* *mp* *f*

Cello *pizz.* *mp* *f*

Str. Bass *pizz.* *mp* *f*

37 38 39 40

Vlins. 1 *mp*

Vlins. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Cello *mp*

Str. Bass *mp*

41 42 43 44

Vlins. 1 *arco* *mf*

Vlins. 2 *arco* *mf*

Vla. *arco* *mf*

Cello *arco* *mf*

Str. Bass *arco* *mf*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a string ensemble, consisting of Violins (Vlins.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass). The score is divided into three systems of measures. The first system covers measures 33 to 36. Measures 33 and 34 are marked *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Measures 35 and 36 are marked *f* (forte). The second system covers measures 37 to 40, all marked *mp*. The third system covers measures 41 to 44. Measures 41 and 42 are marked *arco* (arco) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Measures 43 and 44 are also marked *arco* and *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as stems, beams, and slurs. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'SAMPLE' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

45 46 47 48

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

49 50 51 52

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp *ff* *mf*

53 54 55 56 Rit. 57

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mp *p*

SAMPLE

KIDS