

Mechanical Monsters

For String Orchestra, Grade 1
By Randall D. Standridge (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass
1 - Piano/Synth
2 - Percussion 1 (Drum Set)
2 - Percussion 2 (2 metal objects)

Note from the Editor:

In this grade 1 level work, all string parts contain a 6-note range of open D to B. In addition to the major tetrachord, F naturals are carefully introduced in a unison format. The Second Violin part doubles the Viola part, and the Cello doubles the Bass, allowing for more flexible instrumentation and ease of the rehearsal process.

- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$50.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



Randall Standridge Music, LLC - 26 County Road 472 - Jonesboro, AR 72404 - 870-926-3479

www.randallstandridge.com - randallstandridge@yahoo.com

Mechanical Monsters

By Randall D. Standridge, Grade 1

About Mechanical Monsters:

Mechanical Monsters was born out of my love of two things:

- 1) B-Monster Movies from the 50's and 60's.
- 2) Teaching Beginning Musicians

When writing for young musicians, I always try to ask myself "what would I have LOVED to play at that age?" In this work, the sounds of metal and gears are used to overlay a repeating, plodding groove that suggests something shambling its way across a darkened countryside, drawing ever closer to the unsuspecting city dwellers, completely unaware of the havoc that is about to befall them. My younger self would have relished this mental image, and I hope your young orchestra students will too. Peace, Love, and Music (and imminent destruction, haha!)

Educational goals of the work:

- 8th Note counting and independence
- Tone production and proper note length
- Articulations: Staccato, Detaché, Accents
- This work uses the first 6 notes that are typically taught to developing orchestra students, but adds in the F natural so they can start to learn independence from the traditional major tetrachord. I have tried to make it repetitive enough where teaching and retention would be easy and effective.

Rehearsal suggestions:

- The tempo of this work is critical to its character. When planning your preparation, make sure to allow time for proper technical development to achieve the written tempos, lest the work come off as "boring."
- The "Two Metal Objects" for Percussion 2 may be interpreted very broadly. Cowbells, Agogo Bells, Anvils, Brake Drums, Pots, Pans...It's up to you! However, their relative pitch should be as written (High/Low)
- The keyboard part should be performed on a synthesizer if possible. The more distorted and obviously "digital" the sound, the better. It needs to be a sound that the orchestra could not produce.
- When the players are asked to hiss, it needs to be audible, loud, and energetic.
- For the instrument percussion parts have the players tap or knock as loudly as possible without damaging their instruments. In lieu of tapping on the body of the instruments they could also tap a pencil on a music stand if they are agile enough to swap their bows quickly.



About the Composer

Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor, before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge is currently published by Grand Mesa Music, Alfred Music, FJH Music, Wingert-Jones Music, BandWorks Publications, Twin Towers Music, and Northeastern Music Publications. Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected to the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions **Snake Charmer**, **Gently Blows the Summer Wind**, and **Angelic Celebrations** have been included in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. His work *Art(isms)* was premiered by the Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work **Stonewall: 1969** was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. Mr. Standridge is a contributing composer for Alfred Music's Sound Innovations: Ensemble Development series.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor for Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as a drill designer, music arranger, and colorguard designer for the marching arts, as well as a freelance artist/photographer and writer. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas with his family.

Mechanical Monsters

Score
Grade 1
Duration 1:50

for String Orchestra and Optional Percussion

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)

Moderately Monsterous ♩ = 128

The score is for a string orchestra and optional percussion. It features a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Moderately Monsterous' at 128 beats per minute. The score is divided into four measures. The string parts (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass) all play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Cello and Double Bass parts include fingerings: 3 and 2 for the Cello, and 4 and 2 for the Double Bass. The Viola part includes markings 'H2' and 'L2'. The Synth part plays a 'Digital Sound (Square Wave or other)' with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Percussion parts include a Drum Set (Perc. 1) and 2 Metallic Objects (Perc. 2), both playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score ends with a fermata over the final note of the Cello and Double Bass parts in measure 4.

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Synth
Perc. 1
Drum Set
Perc. 2
2 Metallic Objects

f
f
f
f
f
f
f
f

H2 L2
H2 L2
H2 L2
3 2
4 2
Digital Sound (Square Wave or other)
2 Metallic Objects

2 3 4

Mechanical Monsters - Score

5

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The Vln. 1 and 2 parts have a 'Play 2x Only' instruction. The Perc. 1 part includes a '(hi-hat)' instruction. The Perc. 2 part has a *mf* marking. The measures are numbered 5, 6, 7, and 8 at the bottom.

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking is *mf*. The measures are numbered 9, 10, 11, and 12 at the bottom.

13

Vln. 1 *f*
 Vln. 2 *f*
 Vla. *f*
 Vc. *f*
 D.B. *f*
 Synth *f*
 Perc. 1 *f* (ride)
 Perc. 2 *f*

13 14 15 16

Vln. 1 *fp*
 Vln. 2 *fp*
 Vla. *fp*
 Vc. *fp*
 D.B. *fp*
 Synth *fp*
 Perc. 1 *fp* (ride)
 Perc. 2 *fp*

17 18 19 20

21

Vln. 1 Tap upper bout of instrument

Vln. 2 Tap upper bout of instrument

Vla. Tap upper bout of instrument

Vc. Knock on body of instrument

D.B. Knock on body of instrument

Synth

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Steam Hiss, off on 4

25

Vln. 1

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla.

Vc. *mf*

D.B. *mf*

Synth *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28

Musical score for measures 29-32. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking *mf* is present at the beginning of the first staff. Measure numbers 29, 30, 31, and 32 are indicated below the staves. There are four-measure rests in measures 29 and 30 for Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. Percussion parts feature complex rhythmic patterns with accents and cross-sticks.

Musical score for measures 33-36. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The dynamic marking *f* is present at the beginning of the first staff. Measure numbers 33, 34, 35, and 36 are indicated below the staves. A double bar line is shown at the start of measure 33. Percussion parts include a ride cymbal in measure 33 and various rhythmic patterns with accents and cross-sticks. The word "Hiss" is written above notes in measures 34 and 35.

Musical score for measures 37-40. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. Measure 37 features a 'ride' drum pattern. Measures 38-40 show a transition to a more complex rhythmic pattern with accents.

Musical score for measures 41-44. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. Measure 43 is highlighted with a box containing the number '43'. Dynamics markings *fp* and *f* are present. Percussion parts include a 'ride' pattern and a complex rhythmic pattern.

Musical score for measures 45-47. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth (treble and bass), Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. Measure 45 shows a steady rhythm with accents. Measure 46 features a change in dynamics to *fp* for the lower instruments. Measure 47 is marked *p* and includes a double bar line.

Musical score for measures 48-50. The score includes staves for Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., Synth (treble and bass), Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. Measure 48 starts with a double bar line and a *p* dynamic. Measure 49 features a *f* dynamic and a change in the Synth part. Measure 50 ends with a double bar line.

Be sure to check out all the great works from
Randall Standridge Music: Orchestra
(recordings and sample scores at randallstandridge.com)

Grade .5 to 1.5

A Touch of Glass by Bob Lipton
Bronco Rapids by Caryn Wiegand Neidhold
Mechanical Monsters by Randall Standridge
Shadow Fire by Randall Standridge
The 101 by Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Grade 2 - 2.5

Dance Pizzicato by David Bobrowitz
Goblins & Ghouls by Katie O'Hara LaBrie
Fragile by Randall Standridge
La Bruja arranged by Jorge Vargas
Santa the Barbarian by Randall Standridge

Grade 3-4

Dragonfly's Journey by Avner Dorman
Harvest Ritual by Jeffrey Hart
Jump! by Katie O'Hara LaBrie
Of Love and Loss by Mitchell J. Roth
Zephyr by Caryn Wiegand Neidhold

