

On Guard!

For String Orchestra, Grade 1.5
by Katie O'Hara LaBrie (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
3 - Violin 3 (Viola T.C.)
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass
1 - Rehearsal Piano

Note from the Editor:

This driving grade 1.5 piece is written in e minor and focuses on articulation.
All parts are introduced to C natural, with the exception of the Violas who learn D# on the D string.
The Cello and Bass match.
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$55.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$10.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



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Program Notes:

Swords at the ready! Prepare for a duel in this driving new work by Katie O'Hara LaBrie where strong accents ring out the sounds of slashing swords and precise pizzicato parallels the fancy footwork of a fierce fencer. "On Guard!"

Educational Features:

I wrote this to be an accessible piece with limited range, but a lot of excitement and focus on articulation. The main goal is for students to match bow length, weight and speed for the various articulations that appear: détaché, marcato, accents and staccato. The tenuto notes should be played with long bow strokes – I imagine these notes as the swords slashing through the air.

The melodies that contain half notes should be played with a very broad, full bow stroke. The staccato should be played with a light horizontal stroke rather than a super vertical one so it doesn't become too crisp.

In the pizzicato section encourage the students to breathe in rests to help with subdivision. I always like to imagine the fencers taking calculated almost dance-like steps in this section.

Sorry in advance if your students start pretending their bows are swords.... Tell them I said to keep their "swords" on the string!

– Katie O'Hara LaBrie



About the Composer

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a composer, conductor, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia and is the Orchestra Editor for Randall Standridge Music Publications. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. She enjoys creating new music with the goal of being educationally sound, pleasing to audiences, and above all, fun for the players. She is passionate about sharing music with others and teaching students how to practice with purpose.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players and co-creator of "the Big IDEA" practice method. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha's "40 Under 40," for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam. Learn more at www.katieoharalabrie.com.

On Guard!

Score
Grade 1.5
Duration 1:50

Katie O'Hara LaBrie
(ASCAP)

Fierce ♩ = 138

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Rehearsal Piano

Violin 1
Violin 2
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Pno.

2 3 4 5
6 7 8 9 10

On Guard! - Score

11

Musical score for measures 11-15. The score includes parts 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 2/4. The dynamics are marked as *mp* for the strings and *mf* for the piano. Measure 11 starts with a box containing the number 11. Measure 13 has a box containing the number 2. Measure 14 has boxes containing the numbers 1 and 4. Measure 15 has a box containing the number 4. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

19

Musical score for measures 16-20. The score includes parts 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 2/4. The dynamics are marked as *f* for the strings and *f* for the piano. Measure 19 starts with a box containing the number 19. Measure 19 also features a *V* marking above the staff. The piano part continues with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

On Guard! - Score

Musical score for measures 21-25. 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#). The music features various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, with accents (>) and breath marks (v) indicated. Measure numbers 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 are printed below the staves.

Musical score for measures 26-30. 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#). The music features various rhythmic patterns and dynamics, with accents (>) and breath marks (v) indicated. A box containing the number 29 is placed above the Vln. 1 staff in measure 29. The word "pizz." (pizzicato) is written above the Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vla. staves in measure 29. The dynamic marking "p" (piano) is written below the Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Pno. staves in measure 29. Measure numbers 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30 are printed below the staves.

On Guard! - Score

Musical score for measures 31-36. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). A '4' is written above the first measure of Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and eighth notes.

Musical score for measures 37-41. The score includes staves for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (D.B.), and Piano (Pno.). A box containing the number '37' is placed above the first measure of Vln. 1. The word 'arco' is written above the first measure of Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. The dynamic marking 'mf' is present in the first measure of Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B., and Pno. A '4' is written above the first measure of Vln. 2. The piano part continues with its accompaniment.

42 43 44 45 46 47

Violin 1 (Vln. 1) and Violin 2 (Vln. 2) parts feature a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings of *sub. p* and *f*. The Viola (Vla.) and Violoncello (Vc.) parts provide harmonic support with similar dynamics. The Double Bass (D.B.) and Piano (Pno.) parts feature a steady rhythmic accompaniment. A large watermark 'MusicalStandards.com' is visible across the page.

48 49 50 51 52

Measures 48-52 show a more complex rhythmic texture. The Violin parts (Vln. 1 and Vln. 2) and Viola (Vla.) parts include accents and dynamic markings of *f*. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (D.B.) parts continue with a rhythmic accompaniment. The Piano (Pno.) part features a complex chordal accompaniment. A large watermark 'MusicalStandards.com' is visible across the page.

57

Musical score for measures 53-58. 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#). The score features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A box containing the number '57' is positioned above the first staff of the second system. The word 'div.' is written above the first staff of the fifth measure in the second system. Measure numbers 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, and 58 are printed below their respective measures.

Musical score for measures 59-64. 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#). The score continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The word 'div.' is written above the first staff of the first measure in the second system. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the second system, starting from the first measure. Measure numbers 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, and 64 are printed below their respective measures.