

# Symphony no.1: a ghost story

## Movement II: Loss

By Randall D. Standridge

Full Score

### Instrumentation

1 - Piccolo	3 - Bb Trumpet 1
3 - Flute 1	3 - Bb Trumpet 2
3 - Flute 2	3 - Bb Trumpet 3
1 - Oboe 1	2 - Horn in F 1
1 - Oboe 2	2 - Horn in F 2
1 - Bassoon 1	2 - Horn in F 3
1 - Bassoon 2	2 - Horn in F 4
1 - Contrabassoon	2 - Trombone 1
3 - Bb Clarinet 1	2 - Trombone 2
3 - Bb Clarinet 2	2 - Trombone 3
3 - Bb Clarinet 3	1 - Bass Trombone
2 - Bb Bass Clarinet	2 - Euphonium (B.C.)
2 - Bb Contrabass Clarinet	2 - Euphonium (T.C.)
2 - Eb Alto Saxophone 1	4 - Tuba
2 - Eb Alto Saxophone 2	
1 - Bb Tenor Saxophone	
1 - Eb Baritone Saxophone	

1 - Synth
1 - Timpani
1 - Percussion 1: Bells
1 - Percussion 2: Crotales
1 - Percussion 3: Vibraphone/Chimes
1 - Percussion 4: Marimba/Suspended Cymbal/Wind Chimes
1 - Percussion 5: Bass Drum/Ride Cymbal
1 - Percussion 6: Waterphone/Crash Cymbals/Finger Cymbals
1 - Percussion 7: Tam-Tam/Temple Blocks



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# Symphony no. 1: A Ghost Story

## Program Notes

### On *ghost stories...*

We are all just ghosts waiting to happen.

This is something that, as I grow older, weighs on my mind more and more.

We are all just ghosts waiting to happen.

As I sit here writing this, I am 46 years old. I have lost all of my grandparents. I have lost over half of my aunts and uncles. Cousins, friends, teachers, co-workers, pets...I have lost many over the years. Up until the moment I leave this world, I will continue to lose those around me. This is a unifying fact of human existence. Death stands tall in our future and beckons to us our entire lives. Some of us dig our heels in and fight against that boney, outstretched hand with all of our might. Some of us turn a blind eye, refusing to acknowledge the dark shadow on the horizon, and are surprised when he finally comes calling. Some of us run towards him fearlessly, laughing all the way until we disappear into his dark robes. But hesitant, indifferent, or enthusiastic, we will all meet him eventually.

We are all just ghosts waiting to happen.

But what is a ghost?

A spirit, a wonderful or terrible phantasm that haunts the lonely and forgotten places of the world?

A memory, a moment in time, the past impressing itself ineffably upon the present?

A story?

Yes...a story. A *ghost story*.

Ghost stories have been part of human culture since time out of mind. Stories of shadows that still walk the places of their mortal lives. Stories of mysterious hitchhikers who disappear, only to leave evidence of their existence on their graves. Stories of dark hallways, where the cries of unseen children echo each night. Stories of lovers who return for one last glimpse of those they left behind.

Every ghost has a story.

I am haunted by the memory of all of those that I have lost. I yearn for their presence and grieve for them day after day. I tell people about the times we laughed, the times we cried, the times we fought. I tell them about the impact they had on my life. And every time I do, I am telling a ghost story.

When I was asked to write this symphony, I wanted to write something that would speak to a universal experience. I have chosen the idea of ghost stories, as I feel a really good ghost story works on a lot of levels. Ghost stories are about the past, life, loss, love, fear, and hope. Fear and hope most of all, I think. Fear of our own mortality and the hope that we will survive the experience and be reunited with those we have loved.

And also the hope that one day, someone will tell our story.

Our ghost story.

Because, after all...

We are all just ghosts waiting to happen.

Peace Love and Music,

Randall Standridge, December 2022.

## About the work:

Symphony no. 1: A Ghost Story is a symphony in four movements that follows a narrative. A composer has passed away, and the symphony is told from the point of view of his widow. The movements also loosely correlate to the Kubler-Ross stages of grief.

### Movement 1: Unquiet

The first movement begins softly, establishing a mood of dread. The widow sits alone at the piano where their spouse once sat. Slowly, they play a dirge as the house creaks and comes to life around them. The unquiet spirit of the composer surfaces in a fury, wishing to be heard. A tapping is heard, morse code for "Here." This is followed by a flurry of activity as the spirit makes its presence known, refusing to stay quietly in the grave. The first half of the first movement serves as an "overture" for the symphony, where most of the major themes of the work are stated. A violent and "unquiet" development follows in the second half as a storm rages outside the house. Lighting flashes and thunder roars as the spirit struggles to be heard. This movement correlates with the "Denial" stage of grief.

Morse Code: .... . .\_. . = "Here"

### Movement 2: Loss

The second movement begins with a lone clarinet. The widow sits in a shaft of afternoon sunlight, shaking off the phantoms of the previous night. They begin to remember and reflect, haunted by their memories. As scenes from the past play through their mind, they feel grief, love, nostalgia, anger, bitterness, and hope that their loved one sits just beyond the veil, waiting for them. They catch a brief glimpse of his face and feel his presence, and are filled with wonder and joy. They ask over and over, "are you there?" This unleashes a new wave of emotions larger than the widow can bear, realizing they must move on and live without him. In a whirlwind of love and loss, the movement climaxes with a scream of grief before collapsing into a depressed sigh that ends the movement. This movement correlates with the "Bargaining" and "Depression" stages of grief.

### Movement 3: Midnight

The third movement begins quietly as the clock begins to chime at midnight. The spirit of the composer stirs again, once again visiting the widow. What follows is an explosion of rage as the composer screams against the injustice of his death. A savage dance follows as the spirit runs rampant through the house, unable to control its emotions. Furniture flies, glass breaks, and the incessant knocking of "Here! Here! Here!" echoes through the house. This movement also features a wonderfully malevolent instrument, the Aztec Death Whistle. Movement three correlates with the "Anger" stage of grief.

### Movement 4: Ascent

The fourth movement is performed attaca with the third, beginning immediately as the third movement ends. The dirge from the beginning has been transformed and is now presented in a hopeful setting. Dawn begins to break across the horizon, and warm light begins to drift in through the windows. The spirit, finally accepting its fate, appears one final time to the widow. They share one final, ghostly embrace before the spirit ascends, leaving the earthly plane forever, moving on to whatever waits after. Movement four correlates with the "Acceptance" stage of grief.

The symphony owes a debt to both symphonic and cinematic traditions, particularly those of horror films. I have always loved these sounds and have never sought to distinguish one from the other. I believe all musical expression is legitimate and deserves a space in the world. It gives me great pleasure to bring a little bit of the "dark" side to the concert hall.

## 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's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected for 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. The Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble premiered his work Art(isms) at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work Stonewall: 1969 was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. His Symphony no.1: A Ghost Story was premiered in 2023. In addition, Mr. Standridge's "unBroken Project," a musical initiative about mental health, has received widespread acclaim for its musical content and for providing opportunities to normalize discussions about mental health for music students and audiences.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as an arranger/designer for the marching arts. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband, Steven, and their very, very spoiled pets.

For more information about Mr. Standridge, visit his website at: [www.randallstandridge.com](http://www.randallstandridge.com)

This piece was created with the support of a very generous and enthusiastic consortium of directors and ensembles. I am forever in their debt.

\*Edina High School Band (Edina, MN), Paul Kile, Director (Consortium Lead)

Allen High School (Allen, TX), Philip Obado, Director  
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Wayzata High School (Plymouth, MN), Donald Krubsack, David Elmhirst, Daniel Tewalt, Directors  
Members of the Wilkes University Civic Band (Wilkes Barre, PA), Philip G. Simon, Director

# Symphony no. I: A Ghost Story

## II. Loss

Randall D. Standridge  
(ASCAP)

**Freely, with nostalgia**

**Freely, with nostalgia**

Tune: F, B<sub>b</sub>, C<sub>a</sub>

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

**8 Bittersweet** ♩=88

**15**

**8 Bittersweet** ♩=88

**15**

**Piano Patch**

**pp**

**Bells (hard mallets)**

**mp**

**Crotale (acrylic mallets)**

**mp**

**Vibraphone (med. hard mallets)**

**pp**

**Marimba (soft mallets)**

**pp**

**p**



27

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1 *mp*

Ob. 2 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *All* *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl. *ppp*

Bsn. 1 *ppp*

Bsn. 2 *ppp*

C. Bn. *p* *ppp*

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 *str. mute*

B♭ Tpt. 3 *mp*

Hn. 1-2 *pp*

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba *p*

Synth

Timp.

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *p*

Perc. 5 *Bass Drum (very distant)* *ppp*

Perc. 6

Perc. 7 *Tam-Tam (scrape with beater)* *mf*

*Waterphone (bowed)*

## 33 Reminiscing ♩=72

rit.

*a tempo*

Musical score page 10. The score includes parts for Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, B♭ Cl. 3, B♭ Cl., Cb. Cl., Euphonium, Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, and C. Bn. The page features a mix of sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. Dynamics such as *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, *p*, and *mf* are indicated throughout the score.

33 Reminiscing =72

rit.

*a tempo*

(remove mute)

**Rehearsal Mark: 72**

**Tempo:** 120 BPM

**Instrumentation:** Bb Tpt. 1, Bb Tpt. 2, Bb Tpt. 3, Hn. 1-2, Hn. 3-4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, B. Tbn., Euph., Tuba, Synth, Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, Perc. 4, Perc. 5, Perc. 6, Perc. 7

**Musical Elements:** Measures 1-10 show sustained notes. Measure 11 begins with a solo for Euph. (mf) followed by a dynamic section for Tuba (mf) and Synth (mf). Measures 12-13 show sustained notes.

*rit.* **Moving faster** ♩=84

46 *rit.*

This section of the score includes parts for Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, B♭ Cl. 3, B. Cl., Cb. Cl., Bsn. 1, Bsn. 2, C. Bn., A. Sx. 1, A. Sx. 2, T. Sx., B. Sx., and Synth. Measure 41 starts with a rest followed by eighth-note patterns on Flutes 1 and 2, Oboes 1 and 2, and Bassoons 1 and 2. Measures 42-45 show continuous eighth-note patterns across these instruments. Measure 46 begins with a dynamic *mf* and continues the eighth-note patterns. The *rit.* instruction appears at the start of measure 41 and again at the end of measure 46.

*rit.* **Moving faster** ♩=84

46 *rit.*

This section includes parts for Bb Tpt. 1, Bb Tpt. 2, Bb Tpt. 3, Hn. 1-2, Hn. 3-4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, B. Tbn., Euph., Tuba, Synth, Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, Perc. 4, Perc. 5, Perc. 6, and Perc. 7. Measures 41-45 show various rhythmic patterns including eighth-note chords and sustained notes. Measure 46 features eighth-note patterns on Trombones 1 and 2, Bass Trombone, and Euphonium, with dynamics *mf* and *mp*. The *rit.* instruction is present at the beginning of measure 41 and the end of measure 46.

*a tempo*

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*rit.*

F to low Eb (opt. play on high Eb)

Low E- to F

Waterphone (bowed)

(scrape w beater on release of prev. measure)

*f* Crash Cymbals

*p* (very distant)

*mf*

*49* *50* *51* *52* *53* *54* *55* *56*

**56 Darkly ♩=72**

**56 Darkly ♩=72**

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bb Cl. 1 Solo  
one player

Bb Cl. 2

Bb Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Bb Tpt. 1 All

Bb Tpt. 2

Bb Tpt. 3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba Div.

Synth

Timp. E to D

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 Vibraphone

Perc. 4

Perc. 5

Perc. 6

Perc. 7 Tam-Tam mallets

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64



rit.

74 a tempo

Picc. Fl. 1 Fl. 2 Ob. 1 Ob. 2 Bb Cl. 1 Bb Cl. 2 Bb Cl. 3 B. Cl. Cb. Cl. Bsn. 1 Bsn. 2 C. Bn. A. Sx. 1 A. Sx. 2 T. Sx. B. Sx.

*rit.* **74** a tempo

Bb Tpt. 1 Bb Tpt. 2 Bb Tpt. 3 Hn. 1-2 Hn. 3-4 Tbn. 1 Tbn. 2 Tbn. 3 B. Tbn. Euph. Tuba Synth Timp. Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Perc. 3 Perc. 4 Perc. 5 Perc. 6 Perc. 7

*All* *(to str. mute)* *(to str. mute)* *(to str. mute)*

*Div.* *Div.*

## 84 Lost

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B. Cl. 1 (stagger breathe) *pp*

B. Cl. 2 (stagger breathe) *pp*

B. Cl. 3 (stagger breathe) *pp*

B. Cl. *p*

Cb. Cl. *p*

Bsn. 1 *mf*

Bsn. 2 *mf*

C. Bn. *p*

A. Sx. 1 *pp*

A. Sx. 2 *pp*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *p*

## 84 Lost

B. Tpt. 1 *mute* *p*

B. Tpt. 2 *p*

B. Tpt. 3 *p*

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1 *pp*

Tbn. 2 *pp*

Tbn. 3 *pp*

B. Tbn. *pp*

Euph. *mf* Solo *f* *pp* *f*

Tuba *p*

Synth *mf* *p* Piano+Celeste Patch

Tim. *mp* *pp* *ppp*

Perc. 1 *mf* bowed, ad lib. (rebow as necessary) *p*

Perc. 2 *f* *p*

Perc. 3 *mf* *pp* Marimba, support crotales

Perc. 4 *pp*

Perc. 5 *pp* *mp* *pp* Finger Cymbals *mf*

Perc. 6 *mf* Temple Blocks *6* *6* *3*

Perc. 7 *mf* *ppp*



101 Bittersweet ♩=88

rit.

106

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1 *mp* *ppp*

Ob. 2

B. Cl. 1 *pp*

B. Cl. 2 *pp*

B. Cl. 3 *pp*

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Bsn. 1 *Solo* *mf* *All* *mf* *mf*

Bsn. 2 *mf* *mf*

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx. *mf* *Play* *mf* *mf*

B. Sx.

B. Tpt. 1 *p* *mute* *(remove mute)* *6* *4* *3* *6* *3* *6*

B. Tpt. 2 *p* *mute* *(remove mute)* *4* *3* *6* *open* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

B. Tpt. 3 *p* *mute* *(remove mute)* *4* *3* *6* *open* *mf* *pp* *open* *mf* *pp*

Hn. 1-2 *p* *1. All* *mf* *4* *4* *3* *6* *4* *4*

Hn. 3-4 *pp* *mf* *4* *4* *3* *6* *4* *4*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *pp* *mp*

Tbn. 3 *pp* *mp*

B. Tbn. *pp* *mp*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *pp* *mf*

Synth *Piano Patch* *p* *6* *4* *3* *6* *3* *6*

Timp.

Perc. 1 *4* *4* *mp* *4* *4* *4* *mf* *(mallets)*

Perc. 2 *p* *4* *4* *4* *mf*

Perc. 3 *p* *4* *4* *4* *mf*

Perc. 4 *p*

Perc. 5

Perc. 6 *p* *mf*

Perc. 7



## 121 Moving forward ♩=96

Musical score for orchestra, measures 11-12. The score includes parts for Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, B. Cl. 3, B. Cl., and Cb. Cl. Measure 11 starts with a rest for Picc. and Fl. 1. Fl. 2, Ob. 1, and Ob. 2 play eighth-note patterns. B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, and B. Cl. 3 play sustained notes. B. Cl. and Cb. Cl. play eighth-note patterns. Measure 12 begins with a dynamic *mf*. The instrumentation continues with eighth-note patterns from Fl. 2, Ob. 1, and Ob. 2, and sustained notes from B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, and B. Cl. 3.

## 121 Moving forward ♩=96

122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129

Bb Tpt. 1  
Bb Tpt. 2  
Bb Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1-2  
Hn. 3-4  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
B. Tbn.  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Synth  
Timp.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Wind Chimes  
Perc. 4  
Perc. 5  
Perc. 6  
Perc. 7

rit. 131 With Passion  $\text{♩}=100$

rit. 131 With Passion  $\text{♩}=100$

rit.

130      131      f      132      pp      f      133      pp      f      134      p      f      135      pp      f      136      pp      137

**With raw emotion** ♩=84**like a scream of grief**

Musical score for orchestra and choir. The score consists of two systems of music, each with 12 measures. The first system (measures 138-145) features woodwind instruments (Picc., Flutes, Oboes, Bassoon, Clarinets, Bassoon, Alto Saxophones, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone) and a synthesizer. The second system (measures 146-153) features brass instruments (Trumpets, Trombones, Tuba, Euphonium, Timpani) and percussion (Percussion 1-7). The tempo is ♩=84. Dynamics are consistently ff, except for mf in measures 141 and 142. Measure 143 includes a dynamic change to f, followed by p and fff. Measure 144 includes a dynamic change to f, followed by fff.

**With raw emotion** ♩=84**like a scream of grief**

Continuation of the musical score. The score consists of two systems of music, each with 8 measures. The first system (measures 146-153) features brass instruments (Trumpets, Trombones, Tuba, Euphonium, Timpani) and percussion (Percussion 1-7). The second system (measures 154-161) continues the brass and percussion parts. Dynamics are consistently ff, except for fp in measure 147 and p in measure 148. Measure 150 includes a dynamic change to f, followed by fff. Measure 151 includes a dynamic change to f, followed by fff.

**145 Lonely** ♩=72 *rit.*

Picc.  
Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Ob. 1  
Ob. 2  
B. Cl. 1 Solo *pp* *mp* *p* *All* *pp* *ppp*  
B. Cl. 2 *p* *pp* *ppp*  
B. Cl. 3 *p* *pp* *ppp*  
B. Cl.  
Cb. Cl.  
Bsn. 1  
Bsn. 2  
C. Bn.  
A. Sx. 1  
A. Sx. 2  
T. Sx.  
B. Sx.  
**145 Lonely** ♩=72 *rit.*

B. Tpt. 1  
B. Tpt. 2  
B. Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1-2 1. one player *p* *n*  
Hn. 3-4  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
B. Tbn.  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Synth Piano Patch *mp* *pp* Allow to fade away fully  
Timp.  
Perc. 1 bowed, ad lib. (rebow as necessary) *mp* *pp*  
Perc. 2 *p* Vibraphone  
Perc. 3 *mf* Marimba, support crotolas, soft mallets *pp*  
Perc. 4 *p* Ride cymbal (stick)  
Perc. 5 Finger Cym.  
Perc. 6 *p* Tam-Tam (scrape w beater)  
Perc. 7

146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154