

**Janet Oates**  
2022

## **Hope Birds**

For amateur string ensemble

*Duration 4 minutes*

# Hope Birds

**Hope birds** explores some of the varied facets of hope: flutters of excitement, yearning, adrenaline, sweetness...

It uses, primarily, the ‘hope’ scale: a major scale with flattened third; this scale, like the music, rises to optimism but is grounded in melancholy.

## For mixed ability string orchestra:

- Violins I and II (each with soloist)
- Violin III – simplified part
- Viola (with soloist)
- Cello I (with soloist)
- Cello II - simplified part
- Double bass
- Optional percussion – 1, 2 or 3 small unpitched ‘tingy’ instruments such as triangle, finger cymbals, Thai/Tibetan bell chimes – these could be played by vl. III or as directed by the conductor.

## Performance notes:

- Section A and its repeat F, plus bars 16 and 60, are uncoordinated – players time the placings of their notes independently. The conductor will mark the passing of the bars...
- ...dashed bar-lines are for keeping track rather than precise boundaries. No sense of beat, downbeat, or bars should be felt.
- At the conductor’s discretion, ‘bars’ in sections A and F may be lengthened or shortened (consistently, e.g. all as 3 or 5 seconds each rather than 4)
- The conductor may need to cut players off at the end of bar 16.

# Hope Birds

VI III and Vc II are easier parts, simplifications of VI II and Vc I respectively  
 Percussion is one, two or three small tings sounds such as triangle, finger cymbals, tiny bell.  
 The percussion parts may be played by any willing performers, perhaps from vl. 3

Sections A and F, and bars 16 and 56: play independently, not coordinating even with others in your instrument part.  
 Place your notes whenever you like within the 4 second time box (bar).  
 The conductor will mark the passing of the bars  
 Sections A and F may be slowed down, e.g. 5 or 6 seconds per bar, if desired

section A: experiment with the quality of the pizzicato - vary *secco*, *L.V.*, articulation.

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**A**

Musical score for section A, featuring seven staves for Violin I, Violin II, Violin III, Viola, Violoncello I, Violoncello II, and Contrabass. The score is divided into time boxes of 4", 8", 12", 16", and 20". Dynamics include **p**, **pizz.**, and **mp**. Vertical dashed lines mark the boundaries of each time box.



FROM HERE, DROP OUT ONE BY ONE (IN EACH PART),  
 LEAVING ONLY SOLOISTS BY LETTER B

Musical score for the section where instruments drop out, featuring six staves for Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. III, Vla., Vc.I, and Cb. The score is divided into time boxes of 6", 24", 28", 32", 36", and 40". Dynamics include **mp**, **mf**, **f**, and **ready for solo**. Vertical dashed lines mark the boundaries of each time box.

**B**

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vln. III  
Vla.  
Vc. I  
Vc. II  
Cb.

II SOLO

44" arco 48" 52" 56"

p p



$\text{♩} = \text{c.}100$   
a tempo and coordinated

(bar 16 lasts about 5", which is  
about the same duration as bar 15)

Vln. I solo  
Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vln. III  
Vla.  
Vc. I  
Vc. II  
Cb.

15 tr mp SOLO mp tr~~

TUTTI arco mp

TUTTI arco f SOLO p

TUTTI f mp

TUTTI arco gliss. f mp

TUTTI arco gliss. f p

TUTTI arco gliss. f p

TUTTI arco f gliss. f

f

19 (SOLO)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

SOLO

sul A

*p*

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

gliss.

*f*

tutti

*pp*

tr.

tutti

*pp*

tr.

tutti

*pp*

tr.

tutti

*pp*

pizz.

tutti

*pp*

pizz.

tutti

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

25 C (tutti)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*arco*

*f*

*arco*

*f*

*arco*

*f*

32

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

*L.V.*

*L.V.*

**D**



38

Perc.

Vln. 1. solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

*L.V.*

*SOLO*

*sul E*

*f*

*f*

*L.V.*

*sul A*

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*arco f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

44

Vln. 1. solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

*sul tasto*

*ord.*

*sul A*

*f*

*p*

*pp*

*ord.*

*pizz.*

*mp*

*p*

*sul tasto*

*ord.*

*pizz.*

*p*

*sul tasto*

*ord.*

*f*

*pizz.*

*p*

*sul tasto*

*ord.*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pp*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pp*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pp*

*pizz.*

*p*

*p*

*p*



50

**E**

Vln. 1. solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

knock on wood

knock on wood

knock on wood

*p*

*arco*

*p*

*arco*

*p*

*ppp*

*p*

56

L.V.

Perc.

Vln. I. solo

Vln. I.

Vln. II.

Vln. III.

Vla.

Vc. I

knock on wood

Vc. II

knock on wood

Cb.

=

62

F

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. III

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

pp

tr tr

4"

8"

12"

pizz.

16"

cresc poco a poco

pp

tr tr

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

pp

tr tr

cresc poco a poco

pp

tr tr

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

pp

tr tr

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

pp

tr tr

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

cresc poco a poco

pp

44"

68                          24"                          28"                          32"                          36"                          40"

Vln. I                          Vln. II                          Vln. III                          Vla.                          Vc. I                          Vc. II                          Cb.

*mp*                          *mp*                          *mp*                          *mf*                          *mf*                          *mf*                          *mf*

*mf*

=

73                          44"                          48"                          52"

Vln. I                          Vln. II                          Vln. III                          Vla.                          Vc. I                          Vc. II                          Cb.

*f*                          *f*                          *f*                          *f*                          *f*                          *f*                          *f*

*mp*                          *p*                          *pp*