



Dead Reckoning

PERRY HOLBROOK

Instrumentation

Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
Bass	5

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About the Composer



Perry Holbrook has served as Director of Orchestras at Walton High School since 2001. Under his leadership, the program has grown from 130 to over 380 string students. His ensembles have been invited to perform eight times at The Midwest Clinic, three times at the ASTA National Conference, and eight times at the Georgia Music Educators Association In-Service Conference. Internationally, his groups have completed four European concert tours.

A sought-after guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Holbrook has led the South Carolina and Alabama All-State Orchestras and conducted at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival. He has worked with honor orchestras in Texas, South Carolina, Kansas, Tennessee, and Georgia, and served as a clinician for the 2021 ASTA National Orchestra Festival. His presentations have been featured at The Midwest Clinic, ASTA National Conference, and the Georgia and Texas Music Educators Conventions.

Dr. Holbrook holds a DMA from the University of Minnesota, an MM from Arizona State University, and a BM from Wichita State University. He earned his teaching credentials at the University of Georgia.

Dead Reckoning

“Dead Reckoning” was inspired by the bold spirits of maritime history—explorers who ventured into the unknown, guided by instinct, courage, and the quiet mystery of dead reckoning. This age-old navigational method, which relied on memory, direction, and the passage of time, was less a science than an educated guess—a journey shaped by dreams and calculated intuition.

Perfect for both formal and informal concert settings, “Dead Reckoning” invites listeners on a thrilling musical voyage filled with unexpected turns and vibrant energy. Driven by a captivating 6/8 groove, the piece sweeps players and audiences alike into its rhythmic current. Along the way, harmonics, sul ponticello, tremolos, and pizzicato add color and musical intrigue.

“Dead Reckoning” was composed for my dear friends and colleagues, Ashley Culley and Evelyn Champion, and the incredible students of the Dodgen Middle School Chamber Orchestra, in celebration of their performance at the 2025 Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois.



pholbrook40



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Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Dead Reckoning

for Ashley Culley, Evelyn Champion, and the
Dodgen Middle School Chamber Orchestra - Midwest Clinic 2025

PERRY HOLBROOK
(ASCAP)

Allegro agitato ♩ = 126

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

6

8

ff

f

1 2 3 4 5 6

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mf

mf

mf

Pizz.

f

Pizz.

f

7 8 9 10 11 12

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mf

mf

13 14 15 16 17 18

21

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

mf
Arco

mf
Pizz.

f

28

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

f

f

f

f

32

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

f

mf

mf

mf

f

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

37 38 39 40 41 42

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

43 44 45 46 47 48

47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

49 50 51 52 53 54

51

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

ff ff ff ff f

55 56 57 58 59 60

This system contains measures 55 through 60. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The music is written in treble clef for the violins and bassoon, and bass clef for the cellos and basses. The dynamic markings are *ff* (fortissimo) for measures 55-58 and *f* (forte) for measures 59-60. The score includes various note values, rests, and accents.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

66

61 63 64 65 66

This system contains measures 61 through 66. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The music is written in treble clef for the violins and bassoon, and bass clef for the cellos and basses. The dynamic markings are *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). The score includes various note values, rests, and accents.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

f mf mf mf p

67 68 69 70 71 72

This system contains measures 67 through 72. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The music is written in treble clef for the violins and bassoon, and bass clef for the cellos and basses. The dynamic markings are *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). The score includes various note values, rests, and accents.

73

Vln. I *ff* *mf*

Vln. II *ff* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *mf*

Cello *ff* *mf*

Bass *ff* *mf*

73 74 75 76 77 78

4
4

79 Andante piacevole ♩ = 63

Vln. I *mp* *mf*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mp*

Bass *mp*

80 81 82

4
4

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87

Vln. I *mf* *mp* *p* *mf* Pizz.

Vln. II *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* Pizz.

Vla. *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* Pizz.

Cello *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* Pizz.

Bass *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* Pizz.

83 84 85 86 87

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

88 89 90 91 92

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

95

Solo Arco -1

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

93 94 95 96 97

p *pp* *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

98 99 100 101 102

ppp *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

sul. pont. Arco

ord.

rall. ord.

68

103 Allegro agitato ♩. = 126

Musical score for measures 103-107. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is Allegro agitato with a metronome marking of ♩. = 126. The dynamics are marked *ff* (fortissimo) for measures 103-105 and *f* (forte) for measures 106-107. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The woodwinds have long, sustained notes with some grace notes.

103 104 105 106 107

Musical score for measures 108-114. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 108-111 and *f* (forte) for measures 112-114. The strings continue with eighth notes. The woodwinds have long, sustained notes with some grace notes.

108 109 110 111 112 113 114

115

Musical score for measures 115-120. The score is for five instruments: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cello, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The dynamics are marked *f* (forte) for measures 115-117 and *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 118-120. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The woodwinds have long, sustained notes with some grace notes.

115 116 117 118 119 120

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

121 122 123 124 125 126

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

127 128 129 130 131 132

130

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Cello

Bass

133 134 135 136 137 138

134

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

139 140 141 142 143 144

f

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 139 to 144. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The music is written in treble clef for the violins and bass clef for the others. Measures 139-141 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. Measure 142 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 143 continues the pattern, and measure 144 ends with a final note and a dynamic marking of *f*.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

145 146 147 148 149 150

f *ff* *ff* *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 145 to 150. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Measures 145-146 have dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*. Measures 147-148 have dynamic markings of *ff*. Measure 149 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 150 has a dynamic marking of *f*. A box containing the number 150 is located above the Violin I staff in measure 150.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

151 152 153 154 155 156 157

f *p* *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 151 to 157. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Measures 151-152 have dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. Measures 153-154 have dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*. Measures 155-157 continue the musical notation with various dynamics and articulations.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

9

6

8

8

ff

ff

158

159

160

161



Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Cello
Bass

G.P.

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

6

8

fff

fff

162

163

164

165

166