Grade 3

Music for String Orchestra

Swamp Rock

Jay Coles

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INSTRUMENTATION

Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
Bass 5
Drum Set 1

CAS171F

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Performance Notes

Swamp Rock is a dynamic string orchestra piece that brings the raw energy of rock music to the concert stage. Inspired by legendary bands like AC/DC, Metallica, and Black Sabbath, this piece combines the power of a driving drum set with memorable string melodies, creating a truly electrifying experience. With opportunities for solos and improvisation, *Swamp Rock* invites maturing string players to explore their creativity and channel the spirit of rock 'n' roll. While this is meant to be a fun and adventurous work, I hope that it also challenges young performers while showcasing their growing musical abilities.

Come out punching that first note in measure 1. It should jolt the audience if they haven't had their coffee yet. M. 39 is when we get to improv and hear soloists! Feel free to have the supporting strings and the drum set replay this as many times as you need. Though it's not written in, feel free to tell the drummer to add fills or build when needed. At m. 50, continue to push and drive forward, don't let this section drag. Mm. 57-58, be sure to emphasize watching the conductor as the timing in this transition might feel tricky. I hope you have as much fun rocking out with this piece as I did when composing it!

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About the Composer

Jay Coles (b. 1995) is a composer, author, conductor, clinician, and public speaker who brings fun, unique, and highly educational music to the stage. His music has been performed all over the world, including the Midwest Clinic. His music appears on various concert and festival lists as well as earned J.W. Pepper's Editor's choice selections. Mr. Coles holds degrees from Vincennes University and Ball State University.

Jay's books are published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers and Scholastic. His books have appeared in the New York Times, Teen Vogue, Buzzfeed, Bustle, and Entertainment Weekly, among other media outlets. His writing has won numerous award nominations and honors. Jay currently resides in Muncie, Indiana with his cat named Sage and when he's not composing music or writing books or cleaning up messes from his cat, he's playing drums for a band and playing video games, two of his favorite things to do. Jay is a member of ASCAP and is thrilled to be a part of the Carl Fischer family of composers.

Swamp Rock

JAY COLES



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