

Drew Sperry

Switchback
for String Orchestra

(2026)

- Full Score -

Perusal Score

© 2026 by Drew Sperry (BMI)
All Rights Reserved.

drewhsperry.com

Switchback

for String Orchestra

2026

Drew Sperry

Instrumentation

- Violin I
- Violin II
- Viola
- Violoncello
- Double Bass

Note: The minimum ensemble able to perform this piece is 5-5-4-4-2. More performers in each section are preferred.

Program Note

A switchback is a type of road that is designed to make it easier and safer for people to traverse mountains using a series of sharp turns that gradually change in elevation. While the intention for these types of roads is to make mountain-travel safe, that doesn't mean that driving on them is any less precarious. In writing this piece, my goal was to capture the winding shapes and sudden turns of a switchback road, as well as the feeling of high alertness and unpredictability that one often gets while using such roads. Juxtaposing the erratic kind of music that results is a section featuring soaring melodies, broad gestures, and rich harmonies, all intended to evoke the breathtaking image of the surrounding mountain range. The view isn't enjoyed for long, as the music soon plummets back to the turbulence of the opening, ending in an explosion of sound and color.

Duration: ca. 7 minutes

Perusal Score

Switchback

for String Orchestra

Drew Sperry

With energy ♩ = 112

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

Score

Violins I and II: Both parts play a continuous sixteenth-note figure. Violin I starts at *mf* and tapers to *pp*. Violin II starts at *mf* and tapers to *pp*. Both parts are marked "div." (divisi) in the first measure.

Viola: Plays a sixteenth-note figure starting in the second measure, marked *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a half-note figure marked *p* and *mf*.

Violoncello and Double Bass: Both parts play a half-note figure starting in the second measure, marked *mf*. In the third measure, they play a half-note figure marked *p* and *mf*. The Cello part is marked "pizz." (pizzicato) and the Bass part is marked "(pizz.)" (pizzicato).

8

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

p *f* *p* *mf* *pp* *div.* *unis.* *mp* *f* *p*

pizz. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

p *mf* *p* *mf*

12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

f *ff* *pp* *pizz.* *arco* *pp*

f *ff* *pp* *pizz.* *arco, div.* *mp* *f*

f *ff* *mp* *f* *arco* *f*

f *ff* *pizz., unis.* *f*

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

31

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

div. sul pont. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

un. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *ff*

arco *(f)*

sul pont. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

sul pont. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

(f)

(f)

35

37

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

ord. *f*³

un. ord. *pp* $\rightarrow$ *mf* $\rightarrow$ *pp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

non div.

un. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

(pizz.) *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

arco *mp*

un. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

un. *mp* $\rightarrow$ *f*

40 unis. 41

Vln. I *pp* *mf* *p* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *p*

Vla. *f* *pp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

D. B. *f* *pizz.* (*f*) *arco* *mp*

Measures 40-41. Vln. I and II play unison triplet patterns. Vla. plays a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. plays a triplet of eighth notes. D.B. plays a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics range from pp to f.

44

Vln. I *div.* *ff* *unis.*

Vln. II *div.* *f* *unis.* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff* *div.* *pp*

Vc. *f* *ff* *div.* *pp*

D. B. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *ff* *div.* *pp*

Measures 44-45. Vln. I and II play divided patterns. Vla. plays a triplet of eighth notes. Vc. plays a triplet of eighth notes. D.B. plays a triplet of eighth notes. Dynamics range from f to ff.

48 Solo

Solo

Vln. I

gli altri, div.

ff *p*

gli altri

f *pp* *mp* *f*

Solo

Vln. II

gli altri, div.

f *pp* *f* *p*

gli altri

f *pp* *mp* *f*

Vla.

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

(div.)

1

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vc.

(div.)

2

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

unis.

D. B.

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

53

Solo

f *n* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln. I

unis.

gli altri

pp *mp* *pp*

Solo

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Vln. II

gli altri

pp *mp* *pp*

Vla.

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

1

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vc.

2

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

D. B.

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

pizz., (div.)

p

rit.

58

Solo Vln. I *(mp)*

gli altri

Solo Vln. II *p* *mf* *f*

gli altri

Vla. unis. div.

Vc. unis. div.

D. B. unis. arco

62 Slightly slower, broadly ♩ = 96

tutti, unis.

Solo Vln. I *p* *f*

gli altri *p* *f*

Solo Vln. II *p* *f*

gli altri *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *p* *fp*

1 *f* *p* *fp*

Vc. (div.) *f* *p* *fp*

2 *f* *p* *fp*

D. B. *f* *p* *fp*

66

Vln. I

mp

1

Vln. II

p

2

p

f

mp

Vla.

1

Vc.

2

3

3

D. B.

69

Solo 1

mp

f

mp

f

p

f

Solo 2

pp

mf

p < f

Solo

f

pp

mf

p < f

Vln. I

gli altri

f > n

Solo

f

pp

mf

p < f

Vln. II

gli altri

f > n

Solo 1

f

pp

mf

p < f

Solo 2

f

pp

mf

p < f

Vc.

gli altri

f > n

unis.

f > n

D. B.

77 80

Solo 1

Vln. I

Solo 2

Solo

Vln. II

gli altri

Solo

Vla.

gli altri

Solo 1

Vc. Solo 2

gli altri

D. B.

p *mp* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* *n* *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *n* *mp* *f* *mp*

con sord.

non div. con sord.

pizz.

3

[illegible]

molto rit.

88 90

Solo 1

Vln. I

Solo 2

Solo

Vln. II

gli altri

Solo

Vla.

gli altri

Solo 1

Vc. Solo 2

gli altri

D. B.

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

f *mp*

tutti div.

tutti div.

tutti, unis. (senza sord.)

tutti, unis. (senza sord.)

div.

[illegible]

101

Solo

104

ff *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln. I

gli altri (div.)

ff *mp* *f* *p* *pizz.* *mp* 3

Solo

mp *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. II

gli altri

mp *mf* *p* *mf* *n*

Solo

ff *p*

Vla.

gli altri

3 *ff* *p*

Solo 1

ff *p* 3 3 3

Vc. Solo 2

ff *p* 3 3 3

gli altri

3 *ff* *p* 8 *pp*

D. B.

ff *p* *pizz.* *mp* 3 3

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Switchback' and is page 14 of a larger work. It features ten staves, each representing a different instrument or group of instruments. The staves are: Solo (Violin I), Vln. I (Violin I), gli altri (Violin I), Vln. II (Violin II), gli altri (Violin II), Solo (Viola), Vla. (Viola), gli altri (Viola), Solo 1 (Violoncello), Vc. Solo 2 (Violoncello), gli altri (Violoncello), and D. B. (Double Bass). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (ff, mp, f, p, mf, pp). There are also performance instructions like 'Solo', 'gli altri (div.)', 'pizz.', and '3' (triplets). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 and back to 4/4. A large 'Perusal Score' watermark is visible across the center of the page.

108

tutti, div. (arco)

mp

unis.

Vln. I

tutti, div. arco

p

mf

p

unis.

Solo

p

tutti, unis.

(p) mf

p

p mf

Vln. II

tutti, unis.

(p) mf

p

p mf

gli altri

tutti, div.

p

3

3

3

unis.

p mf

Vla.

tutti, (div.)

mf

p

unis.

div.

3

3

3

Vc.

con sord. arco

pp

3

3

3

div.

113

f

3

p

Vln. I

pizz., div. 3

f

mp

Vln. II

p

pizz., div.

f

3

Vla.

p

pizz., div.

f

3

Vc.

mf

pp

3

3

3

D. B.

mf

pp

3

3

3

116

Vln. I *mf* *p*

Vln. II arco, unis. *pp* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

Vc. *n*

D. B. *n*

120 Suddenly faster, with brilliance ♩ = 112

Vln. I *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. II pizz. *ff* arco *p* *mf* *p*

1 *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

2 *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

1 (div.) pizz. *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

Vc. (div.) pizz. *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

2 *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

D. B. pizz., senza sord. *ff* *f* *pp* *mf*

[illegible][illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

149

Solo

mf *ff*

pizz.

arco

Vln. I 1

gli altri (div.)

mp *f*

pizz.

2

gli altri (div.)

mp *f*

pizz.

Vln. II

arco, unis.

mf *pp*

Vla.

pp *mf* *pp*

Solo

arco

p *f*

pizz.

Vc.

gli altri

arco, (div.)

p *f*

pizz., unis.

D. B.

arco, div.

p *f*

pizz., unis.

153

Solo

mp *f*

arco

Vln. I 1

f

arco

2

f

Vln. II

Vla.

pizz.

tutti

Solo

tutti

Vc.

3

gli altri

3

D. B.

156 tutti, div. unis. 157 div. unis.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

(pizz.) arco p f non div. pizz. arco

159

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

ff p div. unis. pizz., div. arco f

ff p sub. mp f

ff p pizz. 3 ff

163

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

div.

ffp *mf* *p*

div.

ffp *mf* *p*

unis.

ffp *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

unis.

ffp *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

unis. (pizz.)

mf *ff*

This musical score is for a symphony orchestra, specifically for the Violins I and II, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses, and Percussion. The score is written for a 2nd edition, as indicated by the '2' in the top right corner. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into three measures, each containing a 2/4 time signature. The first measure starts at measure 166. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout: Violins I and II (top), Violas (middle), Cellos and Double Basses (bottom), and Percussion (bottom right). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamics range from *ffp* (fortissimo piano) to *f* (forte). The score also includes performance instructions such as 'div.' (divisi), 'unis.' (unison), and 'arco' (arco). The Percussion part includes a 'f' (forte) marking. The score is a 2nd edition, as indicated by the '2' in the top right corner.

169 div. 170 unis.

Vln. I

2

Vln. II

1

Vla.

2

Vc.

D. B.

ff *f* *mp* *f*

ff *f* *mp* *f*

ff *f* *sub. mp* *f*

p *f* *mp* *f*

p *f* *mp* *f*

p *f* *molto appassionato*

mp *pizz., unis.* *ff*

173

Vln. I

Vln. II

unis.

(div.)

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

arco

mp

f

175

div.

unis.

div.

176

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

ff

div.

ff

unis.

fp *mf*

div.

ff aggressively

unis.

ffp *f* *p* *mf*

179

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D. B.

div.

ff sempre

181

unis.

p

ff sempre

unis.

p *f*

fp *ff*

fp *ff*

sub. p *mf*

sub. p *mf* *mp*

p *f* *p*

fp *ff*

182

Vln. I *f* *mp* *f* *ffp* *div.*

Vln. II *mp* *mf* *mp* *ffp*

Vla. *mf* *mp* *f* *sub. mp* *ffp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *sub. mp* *ffp*

D. B. *mf* *mp* *f* *sub. mp* *ffp*

185

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f* *div.* *unis.* *3*

Vla. *f* *3*

Vc. *f* *mf*

D. B. *f* *mf* *div.* *unis.*

[illegible]