

2025 New Music Reading Day

A list of new works, including comments which were originally presented at the Reading Day by Miranda Bell, can be found on the following pages.

Title	Composer	Grade	Vln 3?	RRP	Comments
Presto	Mozart / Granata	2	Y	\$130	Energetic and driving, a good classical option for intermediate. Accessible arrangement, with some little chromatic passages to add challenge. Slightly repetitive for cello and bass.
Colorful Sunrise	Yukiko Nishimura	1.5	Y	\$100	Lush triple time. Good practice of rubato phrases. Violins shine in the melody. Well-written and atmospheric. Not long in length so nice to contrast with another shorter piece as part of a program. Rehearsal Piano only.
Fury	Chris M Bernotas	2	Y	\$120	Rhythmic call and response theme to begin, good practise of quaver rests and up/down bows. Sharing of the melody and soli, a very nice melodic viola soli. Well-received by players. Piano
Bits of Stardust	Bruce W Tippet	0.5	N	\$80	Straight forward and simple, good practice of rests, up bows, could be linked to a 'space' theme. Rehearsal Piano only.
Rise of the Bow-bots	Richard Meyer	1	Y	\$110	Interesting melodic theme but quite engaging, deep cello solo, pizzicato section in cello, bass and viola. Portato bowing in all sections. Modal/B minor but written as E minor. Piano part.
Into the Shadows	Brian Balmages	2.5	Y	\$145	Very atmospheric and cinematographic opening, very cool violin sliding and harmonic effects which would be a crowd pleaser, moves into a faster Allegro misterioso section. Interesting rhythmic accompaniment at different sections. Piano part.
Cinque	Neridah Oostenbroek	2.5	Y	\$120	In 5/4 time, interesting but flowing melody lines and good teaching opportunity (for students and conductor) for 5/4. Col legno in bass and cello. Piano part.
Alis Volat Propriis	Soon Hee Newbold	5	N	\$165	Harp solo (or piano). Violin solo (1 st desk Vln 1) opening, 'old english' style in the beginning, title in latin, and motto of US Oregon state – 'she flies with her own wings'. Pleasant and delicate layering of parts. Third section becomes very busy and frantic, requires strong players throughout. Viola section soli feature. Was fun to play.
Kintaro	Declan Postlethwaite	0.5 – 1.5 or standalone 1.5	Y	\$69	Tremolo techniques. Lower strings driving, good exercise to stay in tempo melody listening to repeated quavers. Whole-ensemble pizz section in the middle. Piano part. Well-received by players. www.declanpostlethwaitemusic.com
Groundbreaker	Stephen Chin	3	Y	\$130	Moves through G minor to B minor and a few other accidentals. syncopated melodies and counter melodies, cello solo. Rehearsal piano only.
Celtic Shenanigans	Neridah Oostenbroek	3.5	Y	\$120	Fun challenging triplet violin 1 section solo to start, solos move through orchestra, meno mosso lilting lush and soaring melody in the middle. Moves between many different time signatures. Pizzicato sections.
Unbridled Spirit	Katie O'Hara LaBrie	4.5	N	\$165	Driving and energetic, fun and uplifting, enjoyed by players.

The Reel Deal	Mark Lortz	1.5	Y	\$100	Very fast tempo notated which may not be accessible to a Grade 1.5 orchestra. But still fun to play and connect to dance theme.
High Flying	Tyler S. Grant	1	N	\$110	A few rhythmic challenges but generally quite fun, contrasting melodies and counter melodies across the ensemble. Piano part.
John Ryan's Polka	Wiegand Neidhold	2	Y	\$110	Familiar tune and fun. Foot-stamping and clapping opportunities. Fun to play and a crowd pleaser. Melody shared around the ensemble. Rehearsal piano only.
Rhyme Time for Strings	Loreto Fin	2	Y	\$110	Collection of three nursery rhymes. Very cute, but a true Grade 2. Very fun effects. Harmonics in vln 1. Pizzicato and snap pizzicatos. With familiar melodies like 'hickory dickory dock' creeping in. Opportunity to program as a performance for young students. Piano part.
The Jolly Roger	Erica Donahue	1.5	Y	\$100	Ok for a pirate piece but not that exciting. ¾ time signature opportunity. Rehearsal piano only.
Breaking Free	Tyler Arcari	0.5	N	\$80	Good for simple rhythms, True 0.5 grade. A few dissonant and interesting harmonies. Rehearsal piano only.
Chasing Dreams	Chris M. Bernotas	1	Y	\$120	Call and response between sections to open. Nice layering of parts creates a full sound. Cello solo. Lots of slurs contrasting with marcato. Dynamic contrasts. Very cool pizzicato section. True grade 1.
Gravity	Howard Dillon	1.5 – 2	Y	\$50	Driving ¾ metre. Practice for down and up bows/retakes. Cello and viola shared solo. Bass solo – would need to be confident bassists. \$50 plus GST through www.sheetmusicplus.com
The Golden Gateway	Brian Balmages	3.5	Y	\$155	C major. Bernstein-esque opening (Magnificent 7). Interesting accidentals to challenge intonation and pitch. Moves between 3 and 4 metre. Allegro con spirito section includes soaring violin melodies and cello/viola alternating solis. Liked by players.
Moroccan Nights	Erica Donahoe	3.5	N	\$120	Moves through a few different styles. It has a 'Piazzolla' section – the Spanish influence on Morocco? Good practice for tempo and rhythms. D minor. Rehearsal piano only.
Dark Matter	Andrew Aronowicz	1 – 3 (two orchestra)	Y	\$120	6/8 and ¾ mixed tempo and sometimes simultaneously. Atmospheric opening, driving melodic theme. Minor tonality. Melody moves throughout the ensemble.
Ariana	Peter Blair	3-3.5	N	\$120	Lush ballad, and rich harmonies, schmaltzy Las Vegas style. Good as a contrast 'down' point in a program. 1 st violin solo – needs strong concertmaster. 2 nd position shifting and intonation for basses – who are important.
River Song	Richard Meyer	3	Y	\$145	Very beautiful lilting melody, good for vibrato, melodies and interesting passages passed around the orchestra. American folk-tune vibes. Anne of Green Gable vibes. Piano part.
Joy Ride	Doug Spata	2	Y	\$110	Clapping/body percussion in opening. Fun and rhythmic melody, given to cello/bass too. Rhythm practise for this piece and articulation. Got a 'woo', some laughs and smiles from players.
Pets	Stephen Chin	0.5 – 1	y	\$130	Three cute movements – nice for kids. Piano part is crucial. Presto Puppies – fun, pizzicato and arco swapping practice. D major. Cantabile Kittens and con brio – E minor. Con Brio Birdies – cello have melody to start, crotchet rest reading for everyone.

Six Puzzle Pieces	Matthew Hoey	0.5 – 1	N	\$140	Piano important. 6 short movements – good for programming. 3 played at AUSTA VIC Reading Day. 1.A Little Something - celli have melody to start. 2.Rats in Reverse – piano introduction. 3.A Two-Piece Puzzle – different instruments play at different times – good for counting.
Falling into Starlight	Matt Arnett	1.5	Y	\$100	Pizzicato sections with different individual solos/duets. Inspiring feel of the main arco melody. Strong leaders of each section required. Very nice. Rehearsal piano only.
Popcorn Party	Loreto Fin	1.5	Y	\$110	All pizzicato (bows down). Fun major melody, quirky and good contrast piece. Piano part.
Bustopher Jones Go To Town	Eugenie Teychenné	1	Vln 2 is vla	\$50	Cute soundtrack-like feel, lush melodies, dainty feel. Enjoyed by the players. Piano part. Available via www.playingpossums.com
A Frightful Tale	Eugenie Teychenné	To be emailed			Haunting opening, minor tonality. Semitone theme throughout. Atmospheric feel and legato melody lines. Piano part. Available via www.playingpossums.com
Flying Theme from E.T.	Williams Arr. Longfeild	2	Y	\$104	Shared melody across the sections, moving between 2 and 4 metre. Interesting arrangement.
Moonbeams	Gary Fagan	2.5	N	\$110	Slurred quaver melody, lush harmonies. Simplistic.
Capriol Suite	Warlock / Wagner	2	Y	\$130	Nice, simple arrangement, beginning with ‘Pieds on l’air’ then moving to Mattachins (Sword dance).
Wheels of Fury	Chris Thomas	2.5	Y	\$130	Drum kit (quite important). Fun rhythms, frequent quaver theme, shades of ‘Rhythm of Love’ (Plain White T’s). Piano part.
The Forbidden Temple	John M Pesternak	1	Y	\$90	D major – good key for beginners. Good practice for accents and staccato, but a long piece. Piano part.
Ships and Sailors	Jay Coles	1	Y	\$90	Energetic and driving, G major. Simple rhythms so good for beginners.
Ghastly Goblins	Neridah Oostenbroek	1	Y	\$120	Col legno techniques. A few rhythms trickier than grade 1 but playable. Piano part.
Graveyard Shift	Chris Thomas	3.5 – 4	Y	\$145	Cool and fun sliding effects to begin. Fun bass part. Enchanting, dotted melody passed around the ensemble. Vocal effects (wolf howling and evil cackling) throughout. Enjoyed by the players – very fun! Would be a crowd pleaser.
To The Feast!	Richard Meyer	4	N	\$165	Fun rollicking jaunty melody. 4 metre. Pizzicato and extended techniques.