

A misty mountain landscape with a dark foreground and a blue-tinted sky. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

Drifting Cowboys in a Mist (2012)

for string quartet

Erik Griswold

### **Drifting Cowboys in a Mist (2012)**

A road trip through the deserts of California and Arizona was the inspiration for *Drifting Cowboys in a Mist*. The passing scenery from Route 66 and Interstate 40 through the western badlands and cactus strewn landscapes rekindled my secret love of country and western. Loading up Hank Williams' (and the Drifting Cowboys) Greatest Hits on my laptop, I began to absorb the Hawaiian tinged steel guitar of Don Helms and the poignant fiddle solos of Jerry Rivers. As I studied and analyzed their music I somehow began to draw a connections with impressionism (Debussy), early jazz (Bix Beiderbecke - "In a mist"), and Bartok (String Quartet No.3). All these influences merged together in a wide ranging homage. I was delighted to have the opportunity to compose this, my first string quartet, for Kurilpa String Quartet, who bring immense talent, dedication, and inspiration to Queensland Conservatorium.

# DRIFTING COWBOYS IN A MIST

ERIK GRISWOLD

Slow & Lazy  $\text{♩} = 60$

First system of musical notation (measures 1-7) for Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc.

**Vn 1:** Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *pp*, *<mf*, *pp*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*. Includes glissando markings.

**Vn 2:** Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*. Includes triplet markings.

**Va:** Bass clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*. Includes triplet markings.

**Vc:** Bass clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *pp*, *<mf*, *pp*, *p*, *mf*.

Second system of musical notation (measures 8-14) for Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc.

**Vn 1:** Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*. Includes triplet markings.

**Vn 2:** Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*. Includes triplet markings.

**Va:** Bass clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*. Includes triplet markings.

**Vc:** Bass clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*.

Third system of musical notation (measures 15-22) for Vn 1, Vn 2, Va, and Vc.

**Vn 1:** Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *<mp*, *p*. Includes triplet markings.

**Vn 2:** Treble clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *<mp*, *p*. Includes triplet markings.

**Va:** Bass clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*, *<mf*, *p*, *<mf*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, *<mp*, *p*. Includes triplet markings.

**Vc:** Bass clef, 3/4 time. Dynamics: *p*.

Animato - with a swing feel

♩ = 138

23

Musical score for measures 23-28. The score is in 2/2 time and A major. It features four staves: Treble (top), Treble (middle), Bass (second from bottom), and Bass (bottom). The music is marked *p* (piano). The melody in the top staff begins at measure 23. The bass line in the bottom staff provides a steady accompaniment.

29

Musical score for measures 29-33. The score continues in 2/2 time and A major. It features four staves: Treble (top), Treble (middle), Bass (second from bottom), and Bass (bottom). The melody in the top staff continues. The bass line in the bottom staff continues with a consistent rhythmic pattern.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The score continues in 2/2 time and A major. It features four staves: Treble (top), Treble (middle), Bass (second from bottom), and Bass (bottom). The melody in the top staff includes a solo section starting at measure 34, marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The bass line in the bottom staff continues. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in the second staff at measure 35. The score concludes with a final measure at measure 38.

Jerry Rivers' solo from "Honky Tonkin"

Jerry Rivers' solo from "Honky Tonkin"

39

Musical score for measures 39-42. The score is written for four staves: Treble (top), Treble (second), Bass (third), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and ties. The melody in the top staff is supported by the other three staves.

43

Musical score for measures 43-46. The score is written for four staves: Treble (top), Treble (second), Bass (third), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns, including eighth and quarter notes, and some rests.

47

Musical score for measures 47-50. The score is written for four staves: Treble (top), Treble (second), Bass (third), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and ties. The melody in the top staff is supported by the other three staves.

52

"Down Home" swing feel 3 Times

58

61