

Marcia Stockton

Challenger Deep

for String Orchestra



OMS157

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Composer's Notes

Deep under the Pacific Ocean in the Marianas Trench lies the Challenger Deep -- the deepest place on earth. Despite immense pressure, frigid water and near darkness, this unimaginably hostile environment holds diverse life forms. Manned exploration poses challenges similar to those of space exploration. **Challenger Deep** impressionistically depicts the deep ocean's remarkable, wonderful, bizarre, magnificent environment and its rarely-witnessed life forms. The score features unusual harmonies employing the deepest sonorities of the contrabass and cello sections. The upper strings' moving lines depict darting sea creatures and objects slowly dropping for miles underwater. Several musical devices convey the idea of enormous depth, including chromatic passages with lowered notes and themes that gradually transpose lower and lower.

Performance Notes

For grade 3.5+ string orchestra:

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass (or Cello II)

About the Composer

Marcia Stockton (ASCAP) has been writing serious music since 1995. In 2013 she started offering her compositions to the public and began composing new works, quickly securing publication contracts and premiere performances. Marcia is one of the professional musicians who volunteers with the Carson Valley Sinfonia, a unique community orchestra in rural Nevada that gives string students the opportunity to gain experience playing in an ensemble. The Sinfonia has premiered many new pieces and ignited many careers in music. Marcia also teaches cello. Marcia majored in music theory at Swarthmore College (1975) and studied with eminent cellists of the Philadelphia Orchestra. For nearly two decades she was a senior technical staff member and Master Inventor at IBM. She and her husband Greg then lived a pioneering life on a backcountry cattle ranch in the southern Sierra Nevada, tending a unique wilderness site. With two cats and two horses, they now live in northern Nevada's Carson Valley. For more information visit her website: Joyful Music Creations, marciastockton.com.

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Andante ♩=80

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

mf

vibrato

1 2 4 , x1 3 2

9

A

f

sol

f

1 H2 L2

div. as needed

4 3 2 1 4 1 4 3

L1 L4 H2 1

3 3 3 3

V

V

V

V

4

15

B

mf

f 4th pos. 3rd pos.

f

f

f

p

18

2

2

Touch lightly sul A and E to sound 2nd natural harmonic

pp

pp

pp

pp

f

pp

C Più mosso ♩=110

5

22

mf L1

mf Half pos.

mf x2 4

mf

27

rit.

Half pos.

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp