

Commissioned by the Canadian Music Centre  
New Music for Young Musicians program

# Watershed

a geographical duet for two student violinists

Violin I - ca. 2 to 3 years of study  
Violin II - ca. 5 to 6+ years of study

**Alex Eddington (2012)**

Total duration: ca. 12 minutes

Perusal Score - DO NOT COPY

**Composer's notes:**

*Watershed* was inspired by my travels across Canada. It is one of many pieces that I have composed that are representations of different amazing places in our country, from the Haida Gwaii islands in British Columbia to the badlands of the Prairie provinces to an old fort in Quebec.

In this piece, I wanted to trace the journey that a drop of water takes from a glacier in the Columbia Icefield (in Alberta's Rocky Mountains) through rivers and lakes, all the way to Hudson's Bay in northern Manitoba. Throughout the entire piece, the water drop (and the other water drops traveling with it) are represented by a simple 3-note motive: starting on one note, moving to a different note, then coming back to the first. For example:

C - G - C or D - C - D or F# - A - F#

If you're curious why, this is because of the chemical structure of a water molecule, which has two Hydrogen atoms on either side of an Oxygen atom. But you don't need to know about that to play or enjoy this piece!

To create the mood for each movement, I imagined what it would be like to be the water passing through that place. Is it mountainous or flat? How cold is the water around me? Am I moving fast or slow? Does the river go straight or does it bend around?

Please feel free to play individual movements; the only two that should not be separated are Nelson River and Hudson's Bay. However, the pieces together are meant to be a suite tracing a specific geographical journey, and should be performed in the order they are presented here.

I am grateful to Paule Barsalou and her students at the Guelph Suzuki School for all of their hard work helping me to refine this piece so that it works as well as possible as a pedagogical piece for young violinists.

**Notes:** Both performers read off the score.  
Doubling of parts is permitted, and even encouraged.

*Alex Eddington (January 2012)*

# Watershed

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Alex Eddington (2012)

**Columbia Icefield**

**Both violins:** play without vibrato in this movement, to create a cold sound.  
**Violin 1:** use open strings as much as possible.

♩ = 60

Sul tasto (S.T.)

□ ▽ □ ▽ use full bow - change when you need to

count (silently)

Violin 1

Violin 2

ONE 2 3 4

pp

Sul tasto (S.T.)

Sul ponticello (S.P.)

ord.

pp

mf

pp

5

ord.

ord.

Sul tasto (S.T.)

Sul ponticello (S.P.)

ord.

pp

mf

pp

♩ = 80

A

9

Sul ponticello (S.P.)

ord.

ord.

S.T.

ord.

S.P.

ord.

ord.

S.T.

ord.

p

mf

p

15

The glacier starts to melt

Musical score for measures 15-20. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has notes with slurs and dynamics *mf* and *p*. Bass staff has chords with dynamics *mf* and *p*. Performance markings include S.P., S.T., and ord. with a 'V' symbol. Crescendo markings "cresc. poco a poco" are present.

21

Musical score for measures 21-25. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has notes with slurs. Bass staff has notes with slurs and triplets. Performance markings include "V" and a triplet "3".

26

B

Musical score for measures 26-29. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has notes with slurs. Bass staff has complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and fourths. Performance markings include *mf* and *p*.

30

Musical score for measures 30-32. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has notes with slurs. Bass staff has notes with slurs and triplets. Performance markings include *p*.

33

Musical score for measures 33-34. Treble and bass staves. Treble staff has notes with slurs. Bass staff has a wavy line and a "C" symbol. Performance markings include *pp*.

segue to Abraham Lake (optional)

Abraham Lake

Both violins: play without vibrato in this movement, to create a cold sound

36  $\text{♩} = 60$  **Violin 1:** put down bow  
count (silently)

**Sounds echoing off the mountains**  
pizz.

ONE 2 3 4 TWO 2 3 4 THREE 2 3 4 FOUR 2 3 4 *f* *p*

ord.  
3

*pp*

42

ONE 2 3 4 *f* *p* ONE 2 3 4 *f*

47 **Violin 1:** pick up bow

ONE 2 3 4 TWO 2 3 4

*p* *f*

**C** 50 arco **Another echo...**

*f* *mp*

*mf* *p*

53 **...and another.**

*f* *p*

*mf*



Both violins: normal vibrato

Eddington: Watershed

♩ = 88

North Saskatchewan River

Joyously

Passing through farm country...

75

pizz. *f* arco *mp*

80

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

84

E ...and a city. *mp* arco *mp*

88

Passing under bridges. *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

108

count (silently)

ONE 2 3 TWO 2 3 THREE 2 3 FOUR 2 3 *p*

Sul tasto (S.T.) *pp*

113

118

G

ONE 2 3 TWO 2 3

*mf*

$A^b = G^\sharp$

122

(not staccato!)

THREE 2 3 *mp*

ord. *p*

127

H

*mf*

*mf*

Lake Winnipeg

♩ = 54

Two friends are playing with a beach ball.

152

Musical notation for measures 152-156. The score is in 6/8 time. The upper staff is marked *mp* brush stroke. The lower staff is marked *mp*. Fingerings are indicated: 1 and 2-2.

157

Musical notation for measures 157-161. The score is in 6/8 time. Fingerings are indicated: 1, 3, 4, 4.

Ricochet:  
drop bow on string and let it bounce!

162

Musical notation for measures 162-167. The score is in 6/8 time. A key signature change to one flat is indicated by a 'K' in a box. The upper staff features wavy lines representing ricochet effects. The lower staff has accents (>) and wavy lines.

168

Musical notation for measures 168-172. The score is in 6/8 time. The upper staff has wavy lines and accents (>). The lower staff has accents (>), a dynamic marking *f*, and fingerings 3 and 2.



Nelson River

Violin 1: put bow down before the movement begins.

♩ = 88

Gently

Passing through Cree territory.

187

pizz.

*p*

count (silently)

ONE 2 TWO 2 THREE 2 *p*

196

Violin 1:

pick up bow

count (silently)

(pizz)

M

206

ONE 2 TWO 2

*mp*

ONE 2 TWO 2 *mp*

216

arco

legato

*p*

3 3 4 3

225

N

ONE 2

f

ONE 2

f

234

2 - 2

Gliss.

2

2 - 2

4

4

3 - 3

242

0 0

dim. poco a poco

restez

3

2 - 2

3

4

4

4

dim. poco a poco

rit.

pizz.

248

2

3

3

X

4

1

2

ONE 2

0

Approaching the river mouth.

segue

♩ = 72

Hudson's Bay

254

put down bow

ONE 2

TWO 2

THREE 2

FOUR 2

FIVE 2

ONE 2 3 4

pizz.

pp

261

266

Water forever, in every direction...

272

Slow harmonic gliss. up and down on G string (don't line up with bars)

278

dim. to nothing!