



**Little Bighorn**

**Tone Poem for Orchestra**

by

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# Little Bighorn

tone poem for orchestra



“Know the power that is peace.”  
Black Elk

On June 25, 1876, the confederated Lakota tribes with the Northern Cheyenne defeated the 7th Cavalry under Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, annihilating Custer's battalion in the battle of the Little Bighorn.

In 1889 a religious movement swept from Nevada eastward to the Plains that preached resurrection of the many tribes. It was known as the “Ghost Dance Movement” because it called upon the tribes to dance and chant for the rising up of deceased relatives and the return of the buffalo.

## Movements

Call to the Dance - bar 1  
Invocation of the Ancients - bar 49  
Ghost Dance - bar 104  
Battle - bar 268  
Epilogue - bar 333

## Instrumentation

duration @ 20 minutes  
Piccolo, 2 Flutes  
2 Oboes, English horn  
2 Clarinets in Bb, Bass clarinet in Bb  
2 Bassoons, Contrabassoon  
4 French horns, 3 Trumpets  
2 Trombones, Bass Trombone, 2 Tubas  
2 Harps  
Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Cello  
Double bass (with C extension)

**Synthesizer:** (one sample needed: Native American flute or Peruvian pan pipes with flutter tongue via the mod wheel)

**Percussionists:** #1: timpani #2: large tam tam, 16 inch floor tom, 14 inch floor tom, suspended cymbal, large African slit drum (amplified) #3: bass drum, castanets, wind chimes, triangle, whip, crash cymbals #4: maracas, high sleigh bells, low sleigh bells, tambourine, snare drum

This work was previously printed under a different title. Out of respect for the Lakota nation, any photos or reference to the major Lakota participants in the battle of the Little Bighorn have been removed at their request.

# Little Bighorn

## Call to the Dance

David Wendell Nelson

Moderato ♩=70

**Woodwinds:**  
Piccolo  
Flutes 1,2  
Oboes 1,2  
English Horn  
Clarinet in B $\flat$  1,2 (ws, tr)  
Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$  (ws, tr)  
Bassoons 1,2  
Contrabassoon

**Brass:**  
Horns in F 1,2 (1. dolce, p, f, p)  
Horns in F 3,4 (3. dolce, p, f, p)  
Trumpets in B $\flat$  1,2  
Trumpet in B $\flat$  3  
Trombones 1,2  
Bass Trombone  
Tubas 1,2

**Percussion:**  
Timpani (f, p)  
Percussion 1 (tam tam 1.v., mp)  
Percussion 2 (wind chimes, f, pp)  
Percussion 3

**Other Instruments:**  
Harp 1 (mp)  
Harp 2 (mp)  
Synthesizer (Native Am. flute or Peruvian pan pipes sample, espressivo, fluttertongue, 3, f, ff)

**Strings:**  
Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Violoncello (p, f, pp)  
Double Bass (p, f, pp)





36

Picc. *f* fluttertongue *ff* normale *f*

Fl. *f* fluttertongue *ff* normale *mf*

Ob. *f* *mf* solo *mf*

Eng. Hn. *f*

Cl. *f*

B. Cl.

Bsn. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *sub. p* *3*

Cbsn. *f* *ff* *f* *ff*

Hn. 1. dolce *p* *f* *p*  
3. dolce *p* *f* *p*

Tpt. *f* *ff*

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp. *f* *ff* *sub. p* *p*

Perc. tam tam *f* *ff* *mp* *mf* wind chimes

Perc. bass drum *mp*

Perc. high sleigh bells *mp* low sleigh bells

Hp. *mp*

Hp. *mp*

Synth. *sub. p* *3* *3*

Vln. 1. *f* pizz. *3* *3*

Vln. 2. *f* pizz. *3* *3*

Vla. *f* pizz. *3* *3* pizz. *3* *mf* pizz. *3*

Vc. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* pizz. *3*

Db. *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* pizz. *3*

Invocation of the Ancients

C

Slower ♩=60

molto rit. . . . A Tempo ♩=60

Picc. Fl. Ob. Eng. Hn. Cl. B. Cl. Bsn. Cbsn. Hn. Hn. Tpt. Tpt. Tbn. B. Tbn. Tba. Timp. Perc. Perc. Perc.

Hp. Hp. Synth.

Invocation of the Ancients

C

Slower ♩=60

molto rit. . . . A Tempo ♩=60

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vc. Db.



67

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

E





# Ghost Dance

**G**

Allegro ♩=120

101

Picc. *pp*

Fl. *pp*

Ob.

Eng. Hn. *p* — *f* — *p*

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. *p* — *f* — *p*

Cbsn.

*a<sub>2</sub>*  
*mf* — *f* — *mf*

Hn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

wood stick  
slit drum *mf*

slit drum *f*

slit drum *ff* *3*

14" floor tom rimshot *ff*

14" floor tom rimshot *ff*

bass drum *mf*

bass drum *f*

bass drum *ff*

low sleigh bell  
maracas *mf*

snare (snare off) *mf*

castanets *ff*

castanets

rimshot normal

rimshot normal

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

*mf* — *ff* — *mf*

fluttertongue

*mf* — *ff* — *mf*

**G** Allegro ♩=120

Vln. 1 arco *p* — *mf* — *p*

Vln. 2 arco *p* — *mf* — *p*

Vla. arco *p* — *mf* — *p*

Vc. *f* — *p*

Db. *f* — *p*









162 **L**

Picc. *ff* *3*

Fl. *a2* *ff* *3*

Ob. *a2* *ff* *3*

Eng. Hn. *f* *ff*

Cl. *f* *ff*

B. Cl. *feroce* *f* *ff* *f*

Bsn. *feroce* *ff* *f* *ff*

Cbsn. *feroce* *ff* *f* *ff*

Hn. *ff* *ff*

Hn. *feroce* *ff* *ff*

Tpt. (straight mute still) *ff*

Tpt. (straight mute still) *ff*

Tbn. *a2* *ff* *f* *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff* *f* *ff*

Tba. *a2* *ff* *f* *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. *ff* *l.v.* tam tam *16" floor tom*

Perc. *ff* *l.v.* tam tam *16" floor tom*

Perc. *ff* *l.v.* tam tam *16" floor tom*

Perc. *ff* *snare (snare off)*

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

**L**  
non-divisi  
*feroce*

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *feroce* *ff*

Vla. *feroce* *ff*

Vc. *feroce* *ff*

Db. *feroce* *ff*



185 **N**

Picc. *f*

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Eng. Hn. *f*

Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *mf* solo *mf* *a2*

Cbsn. *mf* *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tpt. *f* *ff*

Tpt. *f* *ff*

Tbn. *f* *mf* *mf*

B. Tbn. *mf* *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. *ff* hard stick sus.cymbal

Perc. *ff* hard stick bass drum

Perc. *ff* guiro *ff* triangle *ff* hard stick snare (snare on)

Hp. *gliss.*

Hp. *gliss.*

Synth.

Vln. 1 **N**

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.*

Db. *pizz.*

197 **O** **P**

Picc. *mf* *ff*

Fl. *mf* *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Eng. Hn. *ff*

Cl. *ff* a2

B. Cl. *mf* *ff* b2

Bsn. *mf* *ff*

Cbsn. *mf* *ff*

Hn. *mf* *ff* a2 3

Hn. *mf* *ff* a2 3

Tpt. *ff* *f*

Tpt. *f*

Tbn. *ff* a2 3

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *mf* *ff*

Timp. *mf* *ff*

Perc. *mf* *ff* tam tam *ff* *ff* slit drum wood stick

Hp. *mf* *ff*

Hp. *mf* *ff*

Synth.

Vln. 1 *mf* *ff* *f* tr 1/2

Vln. 2 *mf* *ff* *f* tr 1/2

Vla. *mf* *ff* *f* 3 pizz.

Vc. *arco* *mf* *ff* *f* 3 pizz.

Db. *arco* *mf* *ff* *f* 3 pizz.





Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

a2

ff

sub. p

mf

p

f

ff

sus. cym.

tam tam

non-divisi

arco



250 **T** 23

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

258

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Eng. Hn. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff* a2

Cbsn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Tpt. *ff*

Tpt. *ff*

Tbn. *ff* a2

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. *ff* hard stick sus. cym. (to crash cymbals) whip *ff* triangle *mf*

Perc. *ff*

Perc. *ff* tambourine *ff*

Hp. *ff*

Hp. *ff*

Synth. *ff*

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Db. *ff*

# Battle

**U** Slower ♩=85

This page of the musical score, titled "Battle", is page 25 of a larger work. It features a variety of instruments and includes dynamic markings and performance instructions. The score is divided into several systems:

- Woodwinds:** Piccolo (Picc.), Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (Eng. Hn.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.).
- Brass:** Horns (Hn.), Trumpets (Tpt.), Trombones (Tbn.), Bass Trombone (B. Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.).
- Percussion:** Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc.), Bass Drum (bass drum-hard stick), and Snare (snare(snare on)).
- Other:** Harp (Hp.), Synthesizer (Synth.), Violins (Vln. 1, Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

Key performance instructions include:

- Dynamic markings:** *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *f* (forte), *sub. pp* (sub-pianissimo), and *lontano* (lento).
- Articulation:** *senza sord.* (without mutes) and *1.* (first ending).
- Tempo:** **U** Slower ♩=85.

The score includes complex rhythmic patterns, such as triplets and sixteenth-note runs, particularly in the Tuba and Snare parts. The woodwinds and brass sections play sustained chords and melodic lines, while the percussion provides a steady, rhythmic accompaniment.

281

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Eng. Hn.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc.

Perc.

Perc.

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.



Picc. -

Fl. *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

Eng. Hn. *f* *p*

Cl. *f* *p*

B. Cl. -

Bsn. -

Cbsn. -

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Tpt. *f* *p*

Tpt. *f* *p*

Tbn. -

B. Tbn. -

Tba. *f* *p*

Timp. *f* *p*

Perc. -

Perc. -

Perc. -

Hp. *ff* *gliss.*

Hp. *ff* *gliss.*

Synth. *f* *p*

Vln. 1 *f* *p*

Vln. 2 *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

Db. *f* *p*

W

301

Picc. *ff* 3 6 3

Fl. *ff* 3 6 3

Ob. *f* 6 *ff* 3 6 3

Eng. Hn. *f* 6 *ff* 3 6 3

Cl. *ff* 3 6 3

B. Cl. *ff* 3 6 3

Bsn. *f* 3 6 3

Cbsn. *f* 3 6 3

Hn. *ff* 6 *mf* *ff* 6 *mf* *f* 3 a2

Hn. *ff* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* a2

Tpt. *ff* 3 6 3

Tpt. *ff* 3 6 3

Tbn. *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* a2

B. Tbn. *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* a2

Tba. *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* *f* 6 *mf* a2

Timp. *f*

Perc. Tam-tam *p* *f*

Perc. *f* snare (snare on)

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1 *ff* 3 6 3

Vln. 2 *ff* 3 6 3

Vla. *f* 6 *ff* 3 6 3

Vc. *f* 6 *ff* 3 6 3

Db. *f* 6 *ff* 3 6 3





X

310

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Eng. Hn. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Tpt. *ff*

Tpt. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *f ff*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. *ff*

Perc.

Perc. *ff*

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1 *ff*

Vln. 2 *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *f ff*

Db. *f ff*









Picc. *dolce*

Fl. 1. *dolce*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

Ob. 1. *dolce*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

Eng. Hn. *dolce*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

Cl. *dolce*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

B. Cl. *dolce*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1. *dolce*  
3. *p* — *dolce* — *f* — *p*

Hn. *dolce*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

Tpt. *con sord. (straight mute)*  
*p* — *f* — *p*

Tpt.

Tbn. 1.  
*p* — *f* — *p*

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 3 slit drum 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf* tam tam  
14" floor tom rimshot *mp* 14" floor tom rimshot

Perc. bass drum castanets bass drum

Perc. low sleigh bell high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale low sleigh bell high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale low sleigh bell high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale low sleigh bell high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale low sleigh bell high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale low sleigh bell high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale

Hp.

Hp.

Synth.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

350

Picc. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Fl. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Eng. Hn. -

Cl. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

B. Cl. -

Bsn. -

Cbsn. -

Hn. *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *p* *mf* *p*

Tpt. *p* *f* *p*

Tpt. -

Tbn. 1. *p* *f* *p*

B. Tbn. -

Tba. -

Timp. -

Perc. slit drum 3 14" floor tom rimshot

Perc. bass drum

Perc. low sleigh bell castanets high sleigh bell maracas rimshot normale

Hp. -

Hp. -

Synth. *f* *dolce* 3 *f*

Vln. 1 -

Vln. 2 -

Vla. -

Vc. -

Db. -

Picc. *p* *f* *p* *espressivo* *ppp* *ff* niente

Fl. *p* *f* *p* *espressivo* *ppp* *ff* niente

Ob. *p* *f* *p* *espressivo* *ppp* *ff*

Eng. Hn. *ppp* *ff*

Cl. *p* *f* *ppp* *ff*

B. Cl. *ppp* *ff*

Bsn. *ppp* *ff* niente

Cbsn.

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp* *ff* niente

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *ppp* *ff* niente

Tpt. *p* *f* *p* senza sord. *ppp* *ff*

Tpt.

Tbn. 1. *p* *f* *p* *ppp* *ff*

B. Tbn. *ppp* *ff*

Tba.

Timp. *ppp* *ff* l.v.

Perc. *mf* tam tam *mf* slit drum *mf* tam tam *f* tam tam

Perc. *mp* 14" floor tom rimshot *mf* (to suspended cymbal) *ppp* *ff* suspended cymbal-sy

Perc. *mf* castanets *mf* castanets *ppp* *ff*

Perc. *mf* low sleigh bell *mf* high sleigh bell *mf* low sleigh bell *mf* rimshot *mf* normale *mf* rimshot *mf*

Hp. *mf*

Hp. *mf*

Synth. *f* *f* *ppp* *f* *ff* niente

Vln. 1 *ppp* *ff* niente

Vln. 2 *ppp* *ff* niente

Vla. *ppp* *ff* niente

Vc. *espressivo* *p* *ppp* *ppp* *ff* niente

Db. *ppp* *ff* niente