

National Park Suite: Thoughts on Included Media

Thank you for purchasing *National Park Suite* by Ryan Fraley! This work comes with several pieces of media that will help elevate both the instruction and performance of this piece for your program's students and families.

By scanning the QR code included in your purchase, you gain access to over 300 images captured in Acadia, Olympic, Everglades, and Big Bend National Parks, as well as several performance videos for each movement:

1. **Demo Videos** – These files show the full production from the audience's perspective, as if an ensemble were performing the work in precise timing with the changing video footage for each movement; NOTE: Because I removed empty seconds at the beginning of each demo video, these videos are shorter than the others—because of this, the demo videos will not line up with the other videos if attempted to play simultaneously with conductor or audience videos.
2. **Conductor Videos** – These files are what the conductor would use to help keep the ensemble and videos in sync; they show the video footage that goes along with the music, and they have an included click track and flashing rehearsal marking cues; Acadia, Olympic, and Big Bend have two measures of prep clicks before the downbeat of the first measure; Everglades has four measures of prep clicks before the downbeat of the first measure.
3. **Audience Videos** – These files should be played for the audience during the performance; they show the video footage that goes along with the music but have no visual or audio conductor cues included; the Acadia file still has audio embedded for its introduction and ending segments.

When preparing to perform *National Park Suite*, consider how you might want to use the included media in your performance:

- **No Video** – Perform the music and don't worry about the included video files; if performing *Acadia*, consider playing its Audience Video without the video screen, so that the audience can hear the introduction and ending segments' added sound effects; this would require a computer and audio system for Acadia's sound effects.
- **Video Not in Sync with Performance** – Perform the music while playing the Audience Video file for each performed movement but without using the Conductor Video and not worrying about staying strictly in sync with the video as it changes; this would require a computer, projection screen, projector, and audio system for Acadia's sound effects.

- **Video Sync with Performance** – Perform the music while simultaneously playing the Audience Video file and Conductor Video file for each performed movement, trying to keep the ensemble performing in sync with the Conductor Video; this would require a computer with a program like QLab (which can play two video files at the same time, outputting one on the computer screen (Conductor) and one to the audience via the projector (Audience), over-the-ear headphones to be able to hear both the click track and performing ensemble, projection screen, projector, and audio system for Acadia’s sound effects.
 - This is what we did with our ZMS 8th Grade Band and Orchestra students when we performed the world premiere of this work on May 1, 2024 and again at the Indiana Music Education Association Conference on January 18, 2025. This takes the most work, patience, and gear, but it is very rewarding when the music and videos line up to give a truly multisensory performance to the audience.
 - **QLab** – This is a program for Mac computers; check with your school’s tech and drama departments to see if this is supported in your district; once set up, you can cue each video sequentially by simply hitting the ‘space bar’ for each movement.
 - **Placement** – We had the computer on the podium, so it was playing the Conductor Video files right in front of us so that we could more easily see the flashing visual cues; over-the-ear headphones were plugged into the computer for the click tracks; a single HDMI cable was running from the computer on the podium to the A/V professionals in the auditorium, who had the other end of the HDMI plugged into their board, so that the video and audio signals would be routed to their projector and sound system for the Audience Video files.

Please use these included media in whatever way you think will help give you and your program the best experience. If you have questions about more considerations relating to the included media, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me at cmurray@zcs.k12.in.us.

Thank you again for helping to continue the journey that my wife and I started in 2021 with the applications of our joint Lilly Teacher Creativity Fellowship Grants; we hope that both our experiences and Mr. Fraley’s wonderful compositions will help inspire you and your students to visit more national parks in the future!

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Chris & Ashley Murray
ZMS Bands & ZMS Orchestras