

Striking It Rich!

The Comstock Lode, a rich deposit of silver ore, was discovered in 1859 at the present site of Virginia City, drawing hundreds of prospectors from California and the eastern United States to Carson County to "strike it rich." The heyday of silver lasted nearly 20 years, from 1860-1880. At its peak, Virginia City boasted 30,000 residents, 6 churches, 110 saloons, and the only elevator between San Francisco and Chicago. Nevada's silver was used in U. S. coins until the richest silver ore was mined out, and the government decided in the 1870s to rely on gold more than silver for its coins.

Robert D. Vandall

Bold and rough (♩ = ca. 96)

f marcato

4

7

10

Modern Wonder

Hoover Dam is an engineering and architectural marvel that changed the Southwest forever, providing electricity and storing irrigation water for parts of Nevada, Arizona and California. It is located 30 miles southeast of Las Vegas. Begun in 1931 and completed in 1936, it is one of the seven man-made wonders of the world. It is 727 feet high (the equivalent of a 60-story building) and 660 feet thick (about the length of two football fields). Enough concrete was used in its construction to build a two-lane highway from San Francisco to New York. The dam created Lake Mead, the largest man-made lake in the world.

Robert D. Vandall

Broad and majestic (♩ = ca. 72)

The musical score for "Modern Wonder" is written for piano and bass. It begins with a tempo marking of "Broad and majestic (♩ = ca. 72)". The first system is marked *f* and *marcato*. The second system starts at measure 6. The third system starts at measure 10. The fourth system starts at measure 15 and includes dynamic markings *p* and *mp*. The score features various musical notations including chords, arpeggios, and fingerings.

Jewel in the Sierras

Lake Tahoe, snuggled in the Sierra Nevada mountain range, is on the border of California and Nevada. It is the largest alpine lake in North America and one of the deepest in the world. Lake Tahoe's water is 99.7% pure, cleaner than drinking water in most U. S. cities. The lake's crystalline water owes its intense blue to the thin mountain air that allows the water to reflect the blue sky above. The area around Lake Tahoe is home to the summer activities of hiking, biking and sailing. In the winter, downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are popular sports.

Robert D. Vandall

Expressive, with much freedom (♩ = ca. 84)

Expressive, with much freedom (♩ = ca. 84)

mf cantabile

4

mp simile

8

mf

12

p

5

2

1 3 1

1 5

1 5

4

2 1

2 1

Glitz and Glitter

In 1931, Nevada made gambling legal, and the state's number one industry was born! El Rancho Vega became the first resort to open on what was to become the world-famous Las Vegas Strip. Las Vegas is now the home of many of the world's largest hotels. There are well over 100,000 hotel rooms that house over 30 million tourists each year. Lavish shows, entertainment, food and the hope of winning big money lures visitors to a city that never sleeps. The lights in Las Vegas can be seen at night from 30 miles away.

Robert D. Vandall

Fast and brilliant (♩ = ca. 108)

5 3 1
1 3 5

mf

5

mp

cresc.

f

9

mf

13

mp

cresc.

f