



Lesson: Odysseus and the Sirens Warm-Ups

OVERVIEW

The Warm-Ups are intended to help the students become familiar with and confidently perform the pitch set, aleatoric techniques, articulations, and main thematic material contained in *Odysseus and the Sirens* by Dana Wilson.

I. PITCH SET WARM-UP

The main pitch set used by Dana Wilson in creating *Odysseus and the Sirens* is the G Aeolian (natural minor) scale. The additional pitches of Ab and Db are also introduced later in the piece. The Pitch Set Warm-up helps the performers become familiar with the tonality of the piece.

II. ALEATORIC TECHNIQUES WARM-UP

Sections of *Odysseus and the Sirens* require the performers to play designated pitches over and over as fast as comfortable, trying not to coordinate with the other players to create a musical murmuring effect. The Aleatoric Techniques Warm-Up helps the performers to play their improvisations on the designated pitches independently and confidently.

First, two, three, or four concert pitches may be written on the board (indicated with x noteheads in the score and parts), and each player performs them (in the key of their instrument) on the conductor's cue, in any order and at any speed. Once this idea is comfortable, the intensity and dynamic level can be conducted for the whole ensemble. When performers are comfortable performing the pitches selected by the conductor, practice the same technique with the pitches designated in the warm-up.

III. ARTICULATIONS WARM-UP

The parts for *Odysseus and the Siren* contain a variety of articulations, which are represented in the Articulations Warm-Up. It is essential that the performers identify and accurately perform the articulations to present the style and personality of the piece.

IV. MAIN THEMES WARM-UP

The main thematic material from *Odysseus and the Sirens* is represented in the Main Themes Warm-Up. This warm-up also provides an opportunity for the performers to play the articulations in the musical context where they occur in the piece.