Primer String Orchestra

Grade 1/2



Omicron

About the Composition

Omicron is an exciting composition for the developing string orchestra that builds from a three-note idea in the very beginning. Carefully placed accents make this three-note idea float across the bar lines throughout the piece. After some development and build up, the main melody appears at m. 14 in the first violin supported by energetic punctuations in the rest of the ensemble. The melody gains some harmonic support at m. 22 while maintaining its rhythmic drive.

The three-note idea returns at m. 34 as a pyramid effect in the upper strings, while the lower strings use fragments of the melody as a counter line. The *poco accelerando* adds a dramatic buildup back to the melody at m. 50. The lower strings get their chance at the melody in m. 58. The three-note idea returns one more time at m. 64 that leads to a climactic final moment at m. 70.

About the Composer

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is a fresh voice and a rising name in the music world. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Commissions from the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra highlight and showcase his diverse musical abilities. As a conductor, he has led performances with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Houston Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony amongst others. He was the assistant conductor and arranger for a production of Sgt. Pepper Live at the Las Vegas Hilton featuring the band Cheap Trick.

As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with such artists as Natalie Merchant, Chris Isaak, Feist, Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Brandi Carlile, Belle and Sebastian, The Decemberists, Josh Ritter, Gloria Gaynor and others. The Los Angeles Times calls his orchestrations "...colorful" while adding "...even more dimension..." to the compositions. Daily Variety heralds Sean's writing as "most impressive ..." with a "wide range of coloring in the orchestra..." that "...adds heft and rolling energy."

Growing up in Syracuse, New York, Sean displayed a passion for music and showed musical talent at an early age. Sean benefited from loving parents who supported his musical aspirations and challenged him to explore music as a career. During his undergraduate years at Syracuse University, Sean's musical career began to take shape with the guidance of Larry Clark. As Vice-President at Carl Fischer Music, Larry continues to be a major influence in Sean's professional career as mentor and friend.

Through his growing number of commissions and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. He is a frequent guest conductor and clinician at honor bands around the country. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds composition degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University. Sean, his wife Dena and daughter Kate reside in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit Sean's website at www.seanoloughlin.com.



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