

Kjos String Orchestra
Grade 2
Full Conductor Score
SO397F
\$7.00

Deborah Baker Monday

Dramatic Opus



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • *Publisher*



The Composer



Deborah Baker Monday is an active string music educator in the award-winning Logan City, Utah orchestra program. She received her B.M.E. Magna Cum Laude, from Florida State University with an emphasis in string education. She was awarded an academic fellowship to attend the University of Alabama where she received her M.M. in Composition. She continued her studies at Louisiana State University where she received the Chancellor's Award to participate with the LSU Symphony Orchestra under the direction of James Yestadt. She has studied theory and composition with Harold Schiffman, John Boda, Frederic Goossen, Paul Hedwell, and Dinos Constantinides.

Ms. Monday continued to be an active bass performer when she moved to Utah. After completing the coursework and passing the written and oral portions of the doctoral exams, she was hired to teach in the Logan City School District as a low string specialist. During her tenure with Logan, she has pursued her interest in composition and arranging for educational strings. Many of her published works have been honored as J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice selections.

Ms. Monday has presented at numerous state music conferences throughout the United States, as well as several national ASTA conferences, The Midwest Clinic, and the prestigious Ohio State String Teacher Workshop. She is active as a guest conductor and adjudicator, and has received awards and commissions for her work. Her studies in composition and experience in string teaching combine to make her one of the leading contributors to the repertoire for young string players. This has been a rewarding part of her career while she and her husband Bill, have raised four amazing children.

Deborah Baker Monday is a member of ASCAP.

The Composition

Dramatic Opus is an original composition commissioned for the opening of Graham Auditorium, the dramatic arts building at Graham Middle School in Mountain View, CA. When asked what kind of piece was desired, Stephen Hyde, director of Graham Middle School Chamber Orchestra, clearly stated that he wanted something starting in turmoil and ending in triumph, like Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*.

Within the scope of a grade 2 piece for string orchestra, this is the result! Turmoil and triumph in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* is mostly apparent in the tonality. It begins in C minor and concludes in C Major. **Dramatic Opus** begins in d minor and ends with a shift to D Major. It is based on a rhythmic motif which is developed throughout the work.

The form is ABA although the B section is more like a development section moving through different tonalities in an imitative manner. A comparison can be made to sonata allegro form if further study in classical form is explored.

Dramatic Opus is an example of the Classical style. It isn't programmatic, meaning that it does not tell a story. Rather, it is abstract or absolute music, music written for its own sake. However, it does invoke emotions which can become a story created in each performer's or audience member's mind.

This piece provides a great study in the key of d minor, which requires F naturals and B flats. Using finger pattern drills is an excellent way to refine intonation and accurate fingering. With careful attention to pitch and the use of energetic bows, **Dramatic Opus** will be an exciting addition to concert and festival programs.

Instrumentation List (Set C)

8 – 1st Violin	5 – Cello
8 – 2nd Violin	5 – String Bass
5 – 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)	1 – Full Conductor Score
5 – Viola	

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other Kjos publication, please visit www.kjos.com.

Credit: The jacket and score photograph was taken at Robertson & Sons Violin Shop, Inc., Albuquerque, NM. For more information about their services, visit: www.robertsonviolins.com.

14

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

15

16

17

18

Vlns. 1 *mf*

Vlns. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

19 non div.

20

21

22

Vlns. 1 *f*

Vlns. 2 *f*

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

23

24

25

*Smaller notes are for 3rd Violin (Viola T.C.)

A musical score snippet showing measures 30 through 33. The instruments are Violins (Vlns.), Viola (Vla.), Cello, and String Bass (Str. Bass). Measures 30-32 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents and fortissimo dynamics. Measure 33 shows a change in texture with triplets in the lower strings and a forte dynamic. A large diagonal watermark reading "SAMPLE" is overlaid across the entire page.

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39 Slower, but agitato

1 Vlns. 40 41 *mp* 42 43

2 *p* *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Cello *p* *mp*

Str. Bass *p* *mp* pizz.

44 45 46 47 48

1 Vlns. *mf*

2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Cello *mf*

Str. Bass *mf*

49 50 51 52 53

1 Vlns. *mf* *fp*

2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Cello *p*

Str. Bass *p* arco

58 59 60 61 rit.

Vlns. 1

Vlns. 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

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66 67 68 69 70

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

71 72 73 74

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

75 rit. 76 77 78 79

Vlns. 1 2

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

