

Voyage of Odysseus

For String Orchestra, Grade 2.5
by Katie O'Hara LaBrie (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 - Full Score
8 - Violin 1
8 - Violin 2
5 - Viola
5 - Cello
5 - Bass

Note from the Editor:

This grade 2.5 work is a theme and variations that goes through several mode and time signature changes.
While all parts are playable in 1st position the First Violin part includes some optional shifting at the end.
- Katie O'Hara LaBrie

Full Set - \$65.00

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Voyage of Odysseus

By Katie O'Hara LaBrie, Grade 2.5

Program Notes:

Embark on a musical odyssey as we take to the seas in the Voyage of Odysseus! This engaging theme and variations brings to life the epic adventures of Odysseus and his crew by seamlessly weaving Greek mythology and music together through different modes, time signatures and styles.

Note from the Composer:

I had so much fun writing this piece! My son has been really into Greek Mythology lately (inspired by a certain popular book series) and so he was my resident expert on the programmatic elements of the piece.

It all starts with Odysseus's theme – which should be played with strength and a slight separation between the notes. Challenge your students to look for hints of Odysseus's theme or motives in each variation.

Next comes the Cyclops – really encourage your students to get into the “pesante” style with heavy weight. When Odysseus reaches Circe’s Island the main theme starts alternating between D Major and D minor representing Circe’s tricky nature. (Be extra careful of your accidentals – they are tricky just like Circe!) Then we creep down to the underworld using the original theme, with a mode change to minor, now played in a soft sneaky pizzicato.

The cellos introduce a wave-like motive as we go into a lush variation as Calypso tries to make Odysseus fall in love with her. Use long legato broad bow strokes here. As our hero finally escapes the island, a series of triplets will lead us into a 6/8 section showing Poseidon’s Rage. It may be helpful to let the students know that the 4/4 triplets will feel the same as a group of 3 eighth notes in the 6/8 part.

Next, Odysseus tells his epic tale to the King of the Phaeacians through a fortissimo iteration of the main theme. Finally at m. 137 he returns home to Ithaca and ascends to the throne in D Major glory - but the story isn’t quite over yet... he takes his revenge on all of his wife’s suitors! Everything is playable in 1st position, but there is a touch of 3rd position at the end for the 1st violins (with optional 8va) in these final two sections. I hope you enjoy the story and the music!

– Katie O'Hara LaBrie



About the Composer

Katie O'Hara LaBrie is a composer, conductor, clinician, and cellist from Northern Virginia and is the Orchestra Editor for Randall Standridge Music Publications. An educator at heart, Mrs. LaBrie spent the first 15 years of her career teaching orchestra in Fairfax County, Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where she studied under Steven Amundson, and Masters of Music in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where she studied with Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, Mrs. LaBrie's inspiration grows from many sources such as family and nature, but primarily draws from her experiences as a music educator. She enjoys creating new music with the goal of being educationally sound, pleasing to audiences, and above all, fun for the players. She is passionate about sharing music with others and teaching students how to practice with purpose.

Mrs. LaBrie is the founding conductor of the Fairfax Chamber Players and co-creator of “the Big IDEA” practice method. In 2022, she was honored as one of Yamaha’s “40 Under 40,” for her action, courage, creativity, and commitment to growth in the music education field. She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband Joe, who is a middle school band director, and their budding musician, Liam. Learn more at www.katieoharalabrie.com.

Voyage of Odysseus

Score
Grade 2.5
Duration 4:15

Katie O'Hara LaBrie
(ASCAP)

Odysseus $\text{♩} = 90$

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

2 3 4 5

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

6 7 8 9 10

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

Musical score for measures 4 through 15, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The score shows a continuous sequence of notes and rests across the measures. Measure 4 starts with eighth-note patterns. Measures 11-15 show more complex rhythms, including sixteenth-note patterns and rests.

11 12 13 14 15

17 Cyclops

Musical score for measures 16 through 20, featuring the Cyclops section. The score includes five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Measure 16 shows eighth-note patterns. Measure 17 begins with a dynamic *mf pesante*. Measure 18 features eighth-note patterns. Measure 19 begins with a dynamic *f pesante*. Measure 20 concludes with a dynamic *f pesante*.

16 17 18 19 20

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

3

Musical score for measures 21 to 25. The score consists of five staves: Vln. 1 (G clef), Vln. 2 (G clef), Vla. (C clef), Vc. (C clef), and D.B. (C clef). Measure 21: Vln. 1 plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 22: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 23: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 24: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 25: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs.

21

22

23

24

25

27

Musical score for measures 26 to 30. The score consists of five staves: Vln. 1 (G clef), Vln. 2 (G clef), Vla. (C clef), Vc. (C clef), and D.B. (C clef). Measure 26: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 27: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 28: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 29: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 30: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note pairs. Vla. and Vc. play eighth-note pairs. D.B. plays eighth-note pairs.

26

27

28

29

30

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

5

43

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

41

42

43

44

45

4

sim.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

46

47

48

49

50

div.

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

51 **Circe's Island**

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vc. D.B.

51 52 53 54 55

Vln. 1 Vln. 2 Vla. Vc. D.B.

56 57 58 59 60

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

7

Musical score for measures 61 through 65. The score consists of five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is A major (two sharps). Measure 61: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 62: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 63: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns; Vla. has a dynamic *mf*; Vc. has a dynamic *mp*. Measure 64: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns; Vla. has a dynamic *mf*; Vc. has a dynamic *mp*. Measure 65: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns; Vla. has a dynamic *mf*; Vc. has dynamics *v v*; D.B. has dynamics *v v*.

61

62

63

64

65

67

Musical score for measures 66 through 71. The score consists of five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is A major (two sharps). Measure 66: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 67: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 68: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 69: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 70: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Measure 71: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns.

66

67

68

69

70

71

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

75 In the Underworld

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

This musical score page contains five staves representing different instruments: Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The key signature is A major (two sharps). Measure 72 starts with a rest in Vln. 1. Measure 73 begins with a eighth-note in Vln. 2 followed by eighth-note pairs in Vla. and Vc. Measure 74 features eighth-note pairs in Vla. and Vc. Measure 75 starts with a eighth-note in D.B. followed by eighth-note pairs in Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vc. Measure 76 concludes with eighth-note pairs in Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vc. Various dynamics like *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *mp* (mezzo-forte) are indicated throughout the score.

72 73 74 75 76

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

This musical score page continues with the same five staves. Measure 77 shows eighth-note pairs in Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. Measure 78 begins with eighth-note pairs in Vla. and Vc. Measure 79 starts with eighth-note pairs in Vln. 1 and Vln. 2. Measure 80 concludes with eighth-note pairs in Vln. 1, Vln. 2, and Vc. The instrumentation remains consistent with the previous section.

77 78 79 80

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

9

Musical score for measures 81 through 85, featuring five staves:

- Vln. 1:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vln. 2:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vla.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vc.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- D.B.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.

Measure numbers 81, 82, 83, 84, and 85 are indicated below the staves.

Musical score for measures 86 through 90, featuring five staves:

- Vln. 1:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vln. 2:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vla.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vc.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- D.B.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.

Measure numbers 86, 87, 88, 89, and 90 are indicated below the staves. Measures 87, 88, and 89 are grouped by vertical brackets on the right side of the page.

91 Calypso's Island $\text{♩} = 90$

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

91 92 93 94

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

95 96 97 98

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

99 100 101 102

103

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

103 104 105 106

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

107

108

div.

109

110

113 Poseidon's Rage $\text{♩} = 90$

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

111

112

113

114

Musical score for measures 115 through 118, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The music consists of eighth-note patterns with various slurs and grace notes.

115

116

117

118

Musical score for measures 119 through 122, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Measure 121 includes dynamic markings *f* and *ff*. Measures 119, 120, and 122 show sustained notes or rests.

119

120

f

121

122

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

Musical score for measures 123 to 126. The score consists of five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Measure 123: Vln. 1 has a melodic line with slurs and grace notes. Measure 124: Vln. 2 has a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 125: Vla. has a melodic line with slurs. Measure 126: All staves have simple eighth-note patterns.

123 124 125 126

129 Odysseus Tells His Tale $\text{♩} = 90$

Musical score for measures 127 to 130. The score consists of five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. Measures 127 and 128: Vln. 1 and Vln. 2 play eighth-note patterns. Vla., Vc., and D.B. play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Measures 129 and 130: The music reaches a climax with dynamic markings "ff" and large, bold bass clef symbols above the staves. The bass clef symbol is particularly prominent in measure 129.

127 128 129 130

Musical score for strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B.) showing measures 1-4. The score uses a 2/4 time signature and includes dynamic markings such as forte (F), piano (P), and accents (>).

rit.

137 Ascending the Throne in Ithaca $\text{♩} = 60$

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

Musical score for measures 139 to 142, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is A major (two sharps). Measure 139: Vln. 1 plays eighth-note pairs. Measure 140: Vln. 2 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs. Measure 141: Vln. 1 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs. Measure 142: Vln. 1 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs.

139

140

141

142

Musical score for measures 143 to 146, featuring five staves: Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., and D.B. The key signature is A major (two sharps). Measure 143: Vln. 1 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs. Measure 144: Vln. 2 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs. Measure 145: Vln. 1 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs. Measure 146: Vln. 1 and Vla. play eighth-note pairs.

143

144

145

146

Voyage of Odysseus - Score

17

147 148 149 150

This section of the score shows five staves for string instruments. Measure 147: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs; Vla. has eighth-note pairs; Vc. has eighth-note pairs; D.B. has eighth-note pairs. Measure 148: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs; Vla. has eighth-note pairs; Vc. has eighth-note pairs; D.B. has eighth-note pairs. Measure 149 (boxed): Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vla. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vc. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; D.B. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note. Measure 150: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs; Vla. has eighth-note pairs; Vc. has eighth-note pairs; D.B. has eighth-note pairs.

151 152 153 154

This section of the score shows five staves for string instruments. Measure 151: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs; Vla. has eighth-note pairs; Vc. has eighth-note pairs; D.B. has eighth-note pairs. Measure 152: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vla. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vc. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; D.B. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note. Measure 153: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs; Vla. has eighth-note pairs; Vc. has eighth-note pairs; D.B. has eighth-note pairs. Measure 154: Vln. 1 has eighth-note pairs; Vln. 2 has eighth-note pairs; Vla. has eighth-note pairs with a fermata over the second note; Vc. has eighth-note pairs; D.B. has eighth-note pairs.

molto rit.

This section shows five staves for strings: Violin 1 (top), Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass (bottom). Measure 155 starts with a dynamic p . Measures 156 and 157 are mostly rests. Measure 158 ends with a fermata over the first note of the next measure.

155 156 157 158

159 Odysseus's Revenge $\text{♩} = 90$

This section shows five staves for strings. Measures 159-161 feature rhythmic patterns with eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 162 begins with a dynamic f and includes a division instruction ("div.") between measures 161 and 162.

159 160 161 162