

Molly Kien
The Binding of Odysseus
for string quartet

2011

Duration: ca. 10 minutes

Performance Notes:

The Binding of Odysseus was composed in 2011 for musicians from Stockholm's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. The piece was inspired by one of the wall paintings in the Grünewald Chamber Music Hall at the Stockholm Concert Hall. The painting depicts a scene from Homer's Odyssey, in which Odysseus is returning home to Ithaca after the Trojan war. He has been warned to be very careful when his ship passes the land of the Sirens, whose beautiful song causes sailors to jump overboard and drown. Odysseus is so curious to hear this exquisite song that he orders his crew to plug their ears and to tie him to the mast of his ship. When the ship passes the sirens, he is so hypnotized by their song that he orders the crew to untie him, but they dutifully deny his requests, and the ship sails to safety beyond the land of the Sirens.

30

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

C

sul pont.

mf

p

mf

pp

mf

f

mp

ff

mp

41

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D

ord.

p

mf

mp

ff

mp

ff

f

pp

f

47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

E

(non unis.)

ff

p

mf

f

mp

ff

p

ff

mf

f

ff

mp

f

52

Violin I: *p sub.*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mp*, *f*
Violin II: *p sub.*, *f*, *mp*
Viola: *ff*
Violoncello: *p*, *f*

ord. 6, sul pont., ord. 6

56 **F**

Violin I: *pp*
Violin II: *pp*
Viola: *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *f*
Violoncello: *pp*, *mf*

60 **G**

Violin I: *mf*, *p*, *ff*
Violin II: *mf*, *p*, *ff*
Viola: *p*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*
Violoncello: *pp*, *f*, *p*, *f*

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64

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

This system contains measures 64 through 67. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin I part consists of a melodic line with slurs and ties. The Violin II part has a rhythmic accompaniment with sixteenth-note patterns and fingerings (6) indicated. The Viola part has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and ties. The Violoncello part provides a harmonic foundation with sustained notes and some movement. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

68

H

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

accel.

p sub.
f
pp
pp
mf
pp
mf
pp
mf
pp
f
pp

This system contains measures 68 through 74. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin I and II parts have melodic lines with dynamics ranging from *p sub.* to *f* and *pp*. The Viola part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics from *pp* to *mf*. The Violoncello part has a harmonic line with dynamics from *pp sub.* to *f* and *pp*. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The word "accel." is written above the Violin I staff at the end of the system.

75

I Part Two: Song of the Sirens
♩ = 60

J

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

pp
ff
pp
mp
pp
mf
p
mf
pp
pp
mp
mf
p
mf
pp
pp
ff
p

This system contains measures 75 through 81. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The Violin I and II parts have melodic lines with dynamics from *pp* to *ff*. The Viola part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics from *pp* to *mp*. The Violoncello part has a harmonic line with dynamics from *pp* to *ff*. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The word "Part Two: Song of the Sirens" is written above the Violin I staff. The word "J" is written above the Violin I staff at the end of the system.

93 **K**

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

mp *pp* *mp* *pp*
mp *pp* *mp* *pp*
mp *pp* *mp* *pp*
mf *p* *mf* *p*

103 **L**

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

f *p* *mf* *ff* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*
f *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*
f *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*
f *p* *mf* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

poco accel. *a tempo* ♩ = 60

117 **M** Part Three: Struggle

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

pp *pp* *mf* *pp*
pp *pp* *mf* *pp*
pp *pp* *mf* *pp*
p *mf* *p* *f*

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Musical score for measures 123-128. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 123 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 124 has a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 125 has a dynamic of *f*. Measure 126 has a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 127 has a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 128 has a dynamic of *pp*. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and articulation marks. A box labeled 'N' is present above the Vln. I staff in measure 127. The Vln. I and II staves have a marking '(vln. I and II)' above them in measure 127. The Vla. staff has a marking 'sul pont.' above it in measure 128. The Vc. staff has a marking 'pp' below it in measure 128.

Musical score for measures 129-134. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 129 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. Measure 130 has a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 131 has a dynamic of *pp*. Measure 132 has a dynamic of *f*. Measure 133 has a dynamic of *f*. Measure 134 has a dynamic of *pp*. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and articulation marks. A marking 'ord.' is present above the Vla. staff in measure 131. The Vln. I and II staves have a marking 'tr' above them in measure 134. The Vla. staff has a marking 'tr' above it in measure 134. The Vc. staff has a marking 'pp' below it in measure 134.

Musical score for measures 156-165. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The music is in 4/4 time and features complex rhythmic patterns with various dynamics and articulations. A box labeled 'R' is present in the upper right corner of the score.

Measures 156-165:
Vln. I: *f* pizz. *p* arco vln. I,II,vla non unis. *f* vln. I,II,vla non unis. *ff* *p* non unis. vln I & vla *ff* *p* pizz. vln. I,II,vla arco vln. I&II pizz. arco *ff* *p* arco vln. I,II,vla *f*
Vln. II: *f* pizz. *p* arco vln. I,II,vla non unis. *mf* *pp* vln. I,II,vla non unis. *ff* *p* non unis. pizz. vln. I,II,vla arco vln. I&II pizz. arco *ff* *p* arco vln. I,II,vla *f*
Vla.: vln. I,II,vla non unis. *p* *mf* *pp* vln. I,II,vla non unis. *ff* *p* vln I & vla *ff* *p* pizz. vln. I,II,vla arco non unis. *p* vln. I,II,vla non unis. *f* *mf*
Vc.: non unis. *p* *mf* *pp* *f*

Musical score for measures 166-175. The score is for four staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings.

Measures 166-175:
Vln. I: non unis. *ff* vln I & vla vln. I,II,vla non unis. *p* *ff* non unis. vln I & vla *f* vln. I,II,vla arco pizz. *p* arco vln. I&II pizz. *f* *ff* *p*
Vln. II: non unis. *mf* vln. I,II,vla non unis. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* non unis. *mf* vln. I,II,vla pizz. arco vln. I&II pizz. *f* *ff* *p*
Vla.: vln I & vla vln. I,II,vla non unis. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* non unis. vln I & vla *f* vln. I,II,vla arco pizz. *p* arco *f* *ff*
Vc.: *pp* *mf* *ff*

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174 **S**

The musical score consists of four staves: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Vln. I:** Starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic, followed by piano (*p*). It features several passages marked *arco* and *pizz.* (pizzicato). Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *ff*.
- Vln. II:** Mirrors the Vln. I part with similar dynamics and performance instructions.
- Vla.:** Plays a sustained, melodic line with dynamics ranging from *pp* to *f* and *ff*.
- Vc.:** Provides a harmonic foundation with dynamics from *pp* to *f* and *ff*.