Tales of Vandosar

Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

Before writing the piece, Mr. Meyer asked members of the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra to compose original themes of their own. Four of these themes were chosen, and then woven together by the composer. The result is a fascinating and high-spirited overture that explores a myriad of emotions. With brief solos for trombone, trumpet, and violin, this piece is sure to hold the interest of all of your students—after all, it was written with the help of their peers!

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score.
Flute I
Flute II
Oboe I
Oboe II
Bb Clarinet I
B Clarinet II
Bb Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Bassoon F Horn J
F Horn II
Bb Trumpet I
Bb Trumpet II

Trombone I
Trombone II1
Tuba 1
Mallet Percussion (Bells/Xylophone) 2
Timpani (F-G-C-D) 1
Percussion (Suspended Cymbal,
Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Snare Drum,
Tambourine, Castanets)6
Violin I 8
Violin II 8
Viola 5
Cello 5
String Bass5



Please note: Our band and orchestra music is now being collated by an automatic high-speed system. The enclosed parts are now sorted by page count, rather than score order.

Tales of Vandosar is a high-spirited overture featuring all sections of the symphony orchestra. Before beginning the composition, the composer visited the Pasadena Youth Symphony Orchestra (Pasadena, California), with the idea of writing a piece based on original themes submitted by students in the group. Several themes were submitted and four were chosen.

After a brief introduction that combines fragments of all four themes, the majestic main theme, by Vania Fong, is introduced in the celli (m. 7). The second half of this melody (m. 23) was composed by Andrew Ting. At measure 42, the key changes and we hear a charmingly simple theme composed by Dorene Zhou. The composer added the second half of this theme (m. 50). This melody is then varied and tossed playfully about the orchestra. The mood changes at m. 84 as we hear a sobering, contemplative theme by Sarah Biagini. As before, the second half of this melody came from the composer (m. 100). As Sarah's theme returns (m. 108), the solo trombone is joined by solo violin, playing a graceful countermelody (performed by Sarah, herself, at the premiere of the work!).

Dorene's theme returns (m. 121) and is eventually combined with the original main theme in augmentation, played majestically in the brass (m. 144). A heroic coda (m. 180) quoting all four themes brings the overture to a close. The title of the piece acknowledges the four student conductors by combining their first names to create the fictitious name "Vandosar."

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