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## The Composer

Timothy Loest is a name in music synonymous with creativity, versatility, and accessibility. His compositions and arrangements for young band are performed worldwide and his pedagogical methods and conducting appearances continue to impact performers and audiences at the state and national levels.

In 2017, his work *Cloud Gate (Reflections of a City)* was performed for more than 5,000 spectators at Chicago's Millennium Park. That same year, he received the Illinois Grade School Music Association's highest honor – the Cloyd Myers Memorial Award for Excellence in Music Education.

Mr. Loest had his first work published in 1995 and today he is an exclusive writer for The FJH Music Company Inc. He co-authored *Measures of Success®: A Comprehensive Musicianship Band Method,* and is lead author of "The Beyond Series," which includes *Warm-ups* and *Beyond, Rhythms and Beyond,* and *Chorales and Beyond.* 

Mr. Loest received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Illinois State University and his Master of Music Education degree from Northwestern University. He holds membership in NAfME, ASCAP, Illinois MEA, the Illinois Grade School Music Association, and Christian Educators Association International. He is band director at F.E. Peacock Middle School in Itasca, Illinois, and resides in Wheaton, Illinois with his wife Cindy and their two sons.

## About the Music

Fashioned in the style of Holst, this work uses driving rhythms, dark harmonies, and an asymmetrical form to personify Deimos, the Greek mythological god of terror and the namesake of Mars' second moon.

Using just six notes, this modal work explores concert D Phrygian, as well as concert G minor. While Holst's influence is obvious, the work is also reminiscent of Ravel's *Bolero*. Like *Bolero*, this composition holds the listener's attention by way of its perpetuating rhythmic ostinato, a gradual progression from soft to loud, and a key change that elevates tension.

When rehearsing this work, musicians should keep a steady beat and play in perfect sync with each other. While the piece starts *p* and ends *fff*, its volume should build gradually and not become harsh.

Because percussion instruments play a vital role in this piece, it is critical that percussion be heard while maintaining proper balance. For instance, the low tom should support and not overpower the timpani. While the bells can be doubled on other keyboard percussion instruments, care should be taken so that the texture does not become muddy.

Finally, it is highly recommended that your students listen to Holst's Mars, the Bringer of War, as well as Ravel's Bolero. Enjoy this first offering from Loest's suite The Moons.

- Timothy Loest



TIMOTHY LOEST (ASCAP)



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## Musical Jump Start

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL



No. 2: Phrygian Theme Note to Conductor: Play piano first time, and mezzo-piano second time.



