

Ulysses' Quest

Mark A. Taylor

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass



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Program Notes

Ulysses' Quest uses a bold theme to take performers and audience members alike on an exciting musical journey. After stating the theme in the opening bars, performers expand their range to explore the motive's possibilities. A descent into the mysterious middle section stretches ears and finger patterns before control is tested in the slower section. Finally, the piece comes home as the return of the theme is presented in one final round.

Ulysses' Quest by Mark A. Taylor captures the heroic determination of a literary character with deep roots. Ulysses (Greek: *Odysseus*) has been a staple in literature dating back over 2,000 years. His quests have been recorded in Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, Dante's *Divine Comedy*, Tennyson's poem *Ulysses*, and Joyce's novel *Ulysses* (among others).

Performance Suggestions

Students will be excited about shifting in order to play the melody. Octave reinforcements in other voices have been written in to help with intonation and strengthen shifting confidence starting in measures 41 and 60. Cellists may use their open "A" string as a reference in measure 40. A viola cue has been provided to the 1st Violins in measure 45 for rehearsal and/or performance preferences. Directors may wish to warm up with a D harmonic minor scale prior to rehearsing measures 41-72.

Staccato eighth notes should be played on the string at performance tempo. Running eighth notes should act as a metronome for melodic voices. Performers should listen across the orchestra for other sections at all times.

About the Composer



Mark A. Taylor is an award-winning music educator and composer. He teaches orchestra at Centreville High School in Fairfax County, VA, conducts with The Capitol Symphony Youth Orchestras, serves as an adjudicator and clinician, and composes for all levels and genres. In addition to teaching and writing, Dr. Taylor plays cello under the direction of his father, F. Wayne Taylor, in the Friends & Family Chamber Orchestra.

He holds a BM from George Mason University, an MME from Shenandoah Conservatory, and a DMA in Composition from George Mason University where he studied under Dr. Glenn Smith. When he is not making music, Dr. Taylor enjoys spending time with his family and riding his bike wherever the roads might take him. While he once took an unsupported bike trip from Virginia to Alabama to raise scholarship money for his students, most trips encompass a much smaller radius. Mark, his wife Holly, daughter Jacqueline, and son Curtis reside in Centreville, Virginia.

Ulysses' Quest

Duration - 4:45

Mark A. Taylor

Allegro ♩ = 120

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

mf

2

3

4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

5

6

7

8

9

A pizz.

pizz.

p

mf

mf

pizz.

mp

10

11

12

13

14

1. arco *f* 2. arco *mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

15 16 17 18 19

B

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

20 21 22 23 24

C

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mp *mp* *p*

25 26 27 28 29

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

cresc.

mp cresc.

f

cresc.

f

30

31

32

33

34

mf

mf

mf

mf

35

36

37

38

39

p

40

41

42

43

44

Viola Cue

Vln. I *p* *mp* *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

Db. *p* *mp*

45 46 47 48 49 50

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Db. *f*

51 52 53 54 55

6

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

E

ff

56 57 58 59 61

ff

1 1 3 1 2 2 1 4 1 4 3 0

dim.

62 64 65 66

F ♩ = 100

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

p

rit.

pp

p

rit.

mp

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

p

rit.

mp

G

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

76 77 78 79 80 81 83

mp

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92

pizz.

H $\text{♩} = 120$

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

93 94 95 96 97 98 99

p *pizz.* *arco* *pp* *f*

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mf 100 101 102 103 104 105

f

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

106 107 108 109 110

p *mf*

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

111 112 113 114

f

f

f

f

f

Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

115 116 117 118 119 120

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

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