

Program Notes

Warrior from the Deep was composed at the request of the members of the Bravura Trio. It is in six movements that are played without pause. Although at first it was quite a challenge to write a piece for three performers on a single instrument, through the course of composing the work, it became a great opportunity to fully explore the many colors and types of sounds possible on the vibraphone. The players were extremely helpful during the process of composition in trying out new techniques and ways of making sound.

The piece borrows imagery from two not so disparate sources, Samuel Taylor Coleridge's seven-part poem *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and, more recently, the Disney film *Pirates of the Caribbean*. A long dead warrior who lies at the bottom of the sea is brought back to settle a score with those who did him wrong in life. The first movement begins with six-note tremolos of rolling crescendos that act as waves breaking overhead as the warrior stirs. He then rises up to the surface of the water in the second movement and eventually breaks through and, once on top of the water, he moves along at high speeds in search of his enemies. The third movement concludes with chromatic glissandi that lead into the fourth movement, which sets the scene of confrontation in the watery tomb of the warrior's enemies. The fifth movement displays the anger of the warrior poured out as he seeks vengeance against his foes, but at the height of the battle, he realizes that he cannot achieve lasting peace simply by defeating his enemies. The warrior seeks a more satisfying solution in the sixth movement (played with bows instead of mallets striking the instrument) by learning instead to forgive.