

DORIAN DREAM

A modal piece written for Children's Day 2023
Composed and Presented by Sean Fitzmaurice

These notes are for the sole use of Children's Day participants and are not to be copied or shared without the presenter's permission. Your cooperation and understanding are very much appreciated.

WARM UP

- Ideally, everyone is seated at their own barred instrument. I prefer only woods for this exercise.
- Do some echoes starting just on D then building out from there.
- Focus on stepwise motion and always start and/or end on D. Include some scalar passages too.
- Start with simple rhythms, then begin incorporating more complex rhythms.
- Invite students to switch instruments several times so they get experience playing all instruments.
- This warm-up will reinforce the concept of D as our home note and get our ears accustomed to the D Dorian mode we're working in today.

TEACH THE SX MELODY

- Use melody fragment cards to display each measure of the piece.
- Teach each measure by rote but display the notation for those who prefer having it.
- Start with a simplified notation and gradually build to the original melody.

TEACH THE BX PART

- Demonstrate the cross-over handing needed in the bass part.
- Practice both the pattern on D and the pattern on C.
- Point out that the final measure starts on C, but then ends on D.

TEACH THE GLOCK PART

- This part adds some sparkle!
- Point out both the consistent rhythm and descending pattern of this part.
- Play this part gently so it doesn't overpower everything.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

- Once these first three parts are learned, try putting them together.
- Give students the opportunity to try each part.
- Have students think about the "best-fit" part for them (the part they feel they can handle best and play successfully).

TEACH THE OTHER PARTS

- After letting most students experience the three core parts (SX, BX, SG/AG), then start teaching some of the other parts.
- If time allowed, all students could learn all parts. In our case, select a few students to fill in some of these additional parts (AX, CBB, NPP).

PLAY THEM ALL

- Now perform the A section several times with all the parts accounted for.
- If a certain part isn't working, consider simplifying it, modifying it, or even removing it.
- Sometimes assigning different students to play certain parts can fix things.

ADD THE B SECTION

- With our A section under control, we'll want to round out our performance by adding a B section.
- A simple yet effective B section for this piece is to just play a D Dorian scale.
- Experiment with the scale. Play it ascending and descending, try it as a large ensemble or with just a single instrument group, experiment with various rhythms and dynamics.

ADDING MOVEMENT

- Now that our playing parts have been learned, let's add some movement!
- Movement parts enhance the visual element of the performance and contribute to the overall artistic aesthetic of the piece.
- We will use ribbon wands and rainbow discs as our movement prop in this piece.
- Let students work in small groups to generate ideas for ribbon wand movement that suits the piece. Try to give students as much ownership as possible.

FINALIZE THE FORM

- Add an intro and ending. An effective intro is to layer in the parts one by one. For the ending, a tag ending is often a great way to end a piece. Just repeat the last or second last measure (or some portion of the measure) three times before arriving at your final note.
- Now determine the entire form or "road map" of the piece: intro, A, B, A, ending.

PRACTICE AND POLISH THE PERFORMANCE

Our suggested final form:

- INTRO – layer in the parts for the A section
- A – play the piece as written
- B – play the D Dorian scale in the format we determine
- A – play the piece as written and add movement
- B – play the B section with movement
- A – play the piece with movement
- ENDING – repeat the first two beats of the final measure 3 times before continuing to the end

The visuals I made using a font called MusiSync. MusiSync is a free font that includes all your basic rhythms. It's an easy way to combine text and rhythm in a single document using a program such as Microsoft Word. Once you learn the keystrokes (just google the character map for this font), you can easily create all sorts of documents, flashcards, posters, and other visuals. This font is available on most font sites such as www.fontspace.com/musisync-font-f3723. Just install the font and it will automatically appear in your list of fonts when working in programs like Word, PowerPoint, and others.

Dorian Dream – ORIGINAL

By Sean Fitzmaurice © 2023

♩ = 60

SG/AG

SX

AX

BX

Cabasa

Tubano

CBB

Dorian Dream – SIMPLIFIED

By Sean Fitzmaurice © 2023

♩ = 60

SG/AG

SX

AX

BX

Cabasa

Tubano

CBB

DORIAN DREAM NOTES...

Sean Fitzmaurice
email: sean.fitzmaurice@lrsd.net

Sean Fitzmaurice is the elementary music specialist at Highbury School in the Louis Riel School Division in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He is a University of Manitoba graduate and is certified in Orff Level III. His students perform regularly, whether in one of the school musicals (next week we present *Seussical Jr* to over 2000 people!), at a national Orff conference (we've performed at five national conferences, most recently we performed at the virtual *Intersections 2022* conference), singing at the concert hall, or for a small audience in the music room. Sean enjoys being creative and is a frequent presenter at local, national, and international workshops. Sean is proud to be a music educator using the Orff approach and is excited about making music with everyone at Children's Day 2023!

