

# All-State: New Music Reading Sessions 2019

reported by Kathryn Buccola

## New Music Reading Session #2

Seventeen pieces were played at the second Music Reading Session at the 2019 MNSOTA All-State Orchestra Workshop. A few highlights include *Ignite*, *Land of Dragons*, *Dynasty*, and *Flight*.

*Ignite* by Kathryn Griesinger is characterized by a driving a minor syncopated rhythms. Grade 2.5. The syncopations will be challenging rhythmically.

*Land of Dragons* by Chris Thomas is a piece students would like. It also has opportunities to practice expressive playing with an adventurous driving and often flowing triple meter. Includes F# and Bb, and shifting opportunities for first violins and cellos. This is a grade 2.5 piece.

*Dynasty* by Kathryn Griesinger is a grade 3 piece. It is characterized by a lilting 8/8 meter and pentatonic harmonies. It has an adventurous and heroic Asian feel. Violins get the opportunity to practice high 3 C#s. Slurs will also be practiced. One All-State

participant noticed similarities to *A Hero's Journey* by Soon Hee Newbold.

*Fight* by Susan H. Day is a grade 3 piece. It is written in b minor and e minor and is in 4/4 time. It practices extensions for cellos and high 3 finger patterns for violas. It emphasizes a fun falling melodic melody that makes one think of flight.

## New Music Reading Session #3

Eclectic Selections chosen by J. W. Pepper were played at the third Music Reading Session at the 2019 Workshop. A few highlights include *Guldfaxe (Steed of Thor)*, *D-Tour*, *Sunchasers*, and *Attack of the Walking Bases*.

*Guldfaxe (Steed of Thor)* by Andrew H. Dabczynski is a grade 1 piece. It is characterized by driving rhythms and b minor melody. Students will like this piece because of its heroic character and because of its tie to a popular mythical hero. Basic finger patterns and simple rhythms are practiced.

*D-Tour* by Todd Parish is also a grade

1 piece written in rondo form. This piece helps students practice D major finger patterns in stepwise and larger motion. The piano part adds harmonic interest. This piece would be appropriate for a beginning orchestra, first or second year.

*Sunchasers* by Tanner Ott is listed as a grade 1 piece. It was written for the Moorhead Minnesota Middle School Orchestra. The piece is in cut time, which perhaps makes it more difficult than a grade 1 piece. It is also characterized with lighthearted and energetic, steady staccato quarter notes.

*Attack of the Walking Bases* by Bob Phillips is a grade 1.5 piece featuring the bass section. The spooky melody and eerie sound effects are perfect for Halloween.

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