

## **African Noel**

African Noel by Johnny Vinson is based on a Liberian folk song called “Banuwa”. The original words mean “Don’t cry, little girl, don’t cry”. Throughout time, a new set of words was introduced to the same melody. Those words are “Sing Noel, Sing Noel, Sing We Noel”. This piece layers different instruments on top of each other, starting with percussion and then adding in the rest of the winds.

My favorite part of this song is:

This is African Noel, by Johnny Vinson.

## **A Christmas Overture**

A Christmas Overture is a medley of three different Christmas songs. The first is “O Come All Ye Faithful”, which was written in 1751. The second song in the medley is “O Christmas Tree”, which is originally “O Tannenbaum” in German. It was based on a traditional German folk song, and then became associated with the traditional Christmas tree in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The last song is “Joy To The World”, which was written in 1719 by English writer Isaac Watts. As of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, “Joy to the World” was the most published Christmas hymn in America.

My favorite part of this song is:

This is A Christmas Overture, arranged by Eric Osterling.

## **To Conquer the Kraken**

A long time ago in the waters near Norway and Iceland, a legend began to spread among the sailors of a gigantic beast called the Kraken. It was the largest Sea Monster in the world, with a width of one and a half miles. It also had long arms that could grab things and drag them down to the bottom of the ocean. That included full ships with all of the sailors still aboard.

In this piece, we show what it would look like to conquer the Kraken. It begins slowly and softly, as the Kraken resides deep on the ocean floor. It only surfaces when the warm weather comes or it is disrupted. As the Kraken surfaces, our brave mariner decides to fight it. As the first melody is heard, we hear a battle begin between the Kraken and the Mariner. The flutes add in a trill of fright. The melody repeats itself, accompanied with a steady trumpet rhythm as the battle continues to go on. The battle can be heard between the woodwinds and the trumpets, with a great clash. We hear the melody moved into the trumpets as the Mariner gets closer and closer to conquering the Kraken – but not quiet. Tired, both the Mariner and the Kraken step away to take a bit of a break as they contemplate their next move. The music gets softer as they contemplate their strategies, slowly building back up to a frantic energy as we enter the last moments of the battle. They fight – the flutes scream at the danger of the battle, the melody is loud and triumphant and in the last moments of the song, the Kraken is conquered by our Mighty Mariner.

A special thanks to Mr. Krekling and Mr. Schneider for their willingness to participate in our short scene, and to Lizzy Boyle, Thea Person, and \_\_\_\_\_ for designing the Kraken costume.

## **Sing A Long Songs**

At this time, we would like to invite you to sing with us a few songs of the season. We will be singing “Deck the Halls”, “Dreydl Dreydl Dreydl”, Jolly Old Saint Nicholas, and everyone’s favorite Thanksgiving song, “Jingle Bells”. There will be short pauses between each of the songs for us to change our music and have the percussionists switch instruments.