

# MYTHOS SUITE

## Five Greek Myths

Lynn Blake John

### I. Icarus

King Minos locked Icarus and his father, Daedalus, in the tower. While imprisoned, Icarus learned the language of birds, their only visitors. In order to escape, Daedalus asked Icarus to gather some bird feathers and wax to make wings. He cautioned Icarus not to fly too close to the sun because the wax would melt.

Icarus loved flying and ignored the advice. He fell into the sea and drowned.

**Andante** ♩ = 80

**Moderato** ♩ = 100

**mf**

## II. Medusa

Medusa was a virgin priestess in the temple of Athena. Poseidon, the sea god, seduced Medusa. Even though Medusa was taken by force, Athena was enraged and transformed Medusa's hair into a coil of snakes and turned her into a monster whose gaze could turn a man to stone. The great hero and son of Zeus, Perseus, beheaded Medusa. Pegasus, the winged horse, sprang from her blood. Perseus and Pegasus galloped off together.

**Allegro**  $\text{♩} = 80$

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

### III. Orpheus

Orpheus was a gifted musician whose music charmed all living things: people, animals, plants. His music even entranced stones. He was in love with his wife, Euridice, who was bitten by a snake and died. Heartbroken, Orpheus followed her to the Underworld. Hades decreed that Orpheus could bring Euridice back to the Upperworld but only if he did not look at her until they saw the sun. Orpheus did not hear her steps and looked back at her. She was thereupon lost forever. Afterwards, Orpheus could only sing sad songs.

**Allegretto** ♩ = 120

*mp*

*mf*

*f*

*poco rit.*

**Meno Mosso** ♩ = 110

*mp*