

ODYSSEUS

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Odysseus by Max Bruch

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MAX BRUCH

ODYSSEUS

W. S. Callender's Program

OBERLIN

MUSICAL UNION



✦ JUNE 26, 1889. ✦



Odysseus



By MAX BRUCH.



ODYSSEUS—MR. GEORG PREHN.

PENELOPE—MISS HATTIE CLAPPER.

OBERLIN MUSICAL UNION.



COMMENCEMENT CONCERT.

THIRTY-SECOND SEASON.



First Church, Wednesday, June 26, 1889,



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MISS GRACE WRIGHT, SOPRANO.

MR. GEORG PREHN, of Berlin, BARITONE.

MR. G. LEGRAND SMITH, BARITONE.

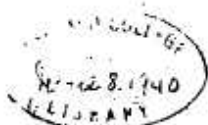
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The Special Train for Cleveland will leave immediately after the Concert.

Mus 585.471

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Relation to the Odyssey.

The *Odysseus* follows the story of Homer's *Odyssey* quite closely, with the exception of a single change in the order of events. As all students of Homer will remember, the action of the *Odyssey* occupies only the last six weeks of the ten years' wanderings of Odysseus, and all his adventures prior to that time are simply related by him as reminiscences. The *Odysseus* begins at the same period of time, the last six weeks, but in order to heighten the effect the striking and familiar scenes of the descent into Hades and the adventure with the Sirens are introduced, although in the *Odyssey* they happen many years before he reaches the Isle of Kalypso, where the poem opens. According to Homer the adventures of Odysseus after leaving Troy on his homeward journey were as follows:

1. A storm drives his ship to the land of the *Lotus Eaters*, whose food has the effect of causing forgetfulness.—[*Bk. ix.*]
2. Escaping from the seductions of these, he reaches the country of the *Cyclops*, where he has the well known adventure with *Polephemus*.—[*Bk. ix.*]
4. He visits the Isle of *Aeolus* and is presented with all the winds confined in a bag. These escape and cause much trouble.—[*Bk. x.*]
4. He falls in with the cannibal *Laestrigonians*, who devour most of his men.—[*Bk. x.*]
5. With one remaining ship he escapes to the isle of the enchantress *Circe*, who transforms part of his crew to swine. He rescues them by the help of *Hermes*, and remains with *Circe* a year.—[*Bk. x.*]
6. To learn the homeward way, he visits *Hades* and consults the seer *Teiresias*, who warns him of dangers to come.—[*Bk. xi.*]
7. He passes the Isle of the *Sirens*, but escapes through the advice of *Circe*.—[*Bk. xii.*]
8. He encounters *Scylla and Charybdis*, and six of his crew are devoured.—[*Bk. xii.*]
9. He reaches *Thrinacia, the Isle of the Sun*, where his men slay the sacred cattle, in consequence of which the gods send storm and shipwreck.—[*Bk. xii.*]
10. Odysseus alone escapes, and makes his way to the isle of the nymph *Kalypso*, where he is detained, an unwilling lover, for eight years.—[*Bk. xii.*]

In the eighth year of his captivity the poem opens, with the preparations made for his return. And here the *Odysseus* also begins. The foregoing adventures are narrated by Odysseus to King *Alkinoos*, and are all omitted in the *Odysseus*, with the exception of the scene in *Hades* and the rencontre with the *Sirens*, which are introduced into the action of the play.

Argument.

PART I.

I. A chorus of the nymphs of Kalypso appears and complains to Hermes that Odysseus is detained against his will. Their prayer is heard, and Hermes appears to announce to Odysseus a speedy return.—[*Bk. i.*]

II. Odysseus and his Companions visit Hades to learn the course of their returning voyage from the prophet Teiresias. Teiresias warns Odysseus against the Sirens, and his mother Antikleia urges him to hasten home to defend his wife against her importunate suitors.—[*Bk. xi.*]

III. They pass the Isle of the Sirens. Odysseus fills the ears of his companions with wax and has them bind him to the mast, and thus listens to their song in safety.—[*Bk. xii.*]

IV. A tempest wrecks their ship and Odysseus alone is saved by the intervention of the sea goddess, Leukothea, and is cast on the shore of Scheria, the home of the Phæacians, where we leave him asleep.—[*Bk. v.*]

PART II.

V. The scene changes to Ithaca, where Penelope is mourning for the absence of her husband and son Telemachus, and prays for their return.—[*Bk. ii.*]

VI. The scene changes back to Scheira, where Nausikaa, daughter of the king, goes down to the beach and finds Odysseus and invites him, ignorant of his rank, to her father's house.—[*Bk. vi.*]

VII. A chorus of Phæacians welcomes Odysseus to the feast, and the Rhapsodies or Improvisatores sing the fall of Troy, and the fate of the Grecian chiefs. Odysseus, overcome with emotion, sheds tears, and is recognized and sent to his home in a Phæacian ship.—[*Bk. viii.*]

VIII. The scene changes once more to Ithaca, where Penelope is weaving a garment, upon the completion of which she is to accept a new husband. Every night she unravels what she has woven during the day.—[*Bk. ii.*]

IX. The Phæacian boatmen land Odysseus on the Island of Ithaca, and leave him wrapped in slumber. He wakes, but fails to recognize his country until Athene appears and gives him advice as to how he shall slay the insolent suitors.—[*Bk. xiii.*]

X. The final scene introduces us to a feast in Ithaca. The people rejoice over the return of Odysseus, and describe how he slew the suitors, and the work ends with a grand triumphal chorus by the Ithacan people.—[*Bks. xxi-xxiv.*]