

RAGNARÖK (DESTINY OF THE GODS), Johnson
SBMP 1820

TTBB
piano



Ragnarök

(Destiny of the Gods)

by
Randall Johnson



Randy & Rachel
STENSON
CHORAL SERIES

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About the composer

Dr. Randall Johnson received his Doctor of Musical Arts in Choral Conducting from the University of Washington in Seattle. He then joined the faculty of the University of Guam with principal responsibilities in solo and ensemble vocal music. His additional responsibilities varied through the years but included ear training, jazz band, conducting, music theory, saxophone and others as needed. He has been able to travel to over 30 countries as a conductor, singer, instrumentalist and clinician. He has

written choral music for many different choirs and his university ensembles have won competitions internationally and (more fun than competitions) performed in choral festivals and tours to 13 different countries. Randall has been a frequent clinician and adjudicator in Seoul and Tokyo: most notably St. Mary's High School whose groups, directed by Randy and Rachel Stenson, have premiered many of his compositions.

Text and composer notes on page 22 & 23

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Randy Stenson, conductor

Ranges

T T B B



recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

Ragnarök

(Destiny of the Gods)

Randall Johnson

Misterioso ♩ = 120

Piano *mp*

3

5

T 8

T 8

B

B

mp

Jör-mun-gan-dr

mp

Jör-mun-gan-dr

Jör-mun-gan-dr

mp

Jör-mun-gan-dr

Jör-mun-gan-dr

Jör-mun-gan-dr

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1820-3

8 *mf*

Jör - mun - gan - dr

Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr

Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr

Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr

11 *rall. mf*

Mid - gard - pent. Jör - mun -

cresc. Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör - mun -

cresc. Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör - mun -

Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör-mun-gan-dr Jör - mun -

mf *Leg.*

PREVIEW

14 $\text{♩} = 82$

gan - dr.

gan - dr.

gan - dr.

gan - dr.

mf

* *Ped.* *

16 *mf*

Mid - gard Ser - pent cast out by O - din and thrown

Mid - gard Ser - pent cast out by O - din and thrown

Mid - gard Ser - pent cast out by O - din and thrown

Mid - gard Ser - pent cast out by O - din and thrown

Mid - gard Ser - pent cast out by O - din and thrown

18

in to the sea. _____

in to the sea. _____

in to the sea. _____

in to the sea. _____

20

Foe of Thor, no one could fore - see all the strength. _____

Foe of Thor, no one could fore - see all the strength. _____

Foe of Thor, no one could fore - see all the strength. _____

Foe of Thor, no one could fore - see all the strength. _____

22

and size he would be.

and size he would be.

and size he would be.

and size he would be.

24

He en - circled the earth, he moves and the moun -

He en - cir - cled the earth, he moves and the moun -

mp Son of Lo - ki pre -

Son of Lo - ki pre -

26

- tains trem - ble and quake. _____
 - tains trem - ble and quake. _____
 pares for war. _____
 pares for war. _____

28

Des - ti - ny of the Gods and gi - ants are with _____
 Des - ti - ny of the Gods and gi - ants are with _____
 Light - ning flash - es,
 Light - ning flash - es,

30

8 this snake. _____

8 this snake. _____

thun - der roars. _____

thun - der roars. _____

32

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f

3

3

3

3

35

con - sumed. _ Rag - na - rök!
 con - sumed. _ Rag - na - rök! The world or - der chang - es,
 con - sumed. _ Rag - na - rök! The world or - der chang - es,
 con - sumed. _ Rag - na - rök!

38

e - ven Gods _ must meet ___ their doom. _ Rag - na - rök!
 e - ven Gods _ must meet ___ their doom. _ Rag - na - rök!
 e - ven Gods _ must meet ___ their doom. _ Rag - na - rök!
 e - ven Gods _ must meet ___ their doom. _ Rag - na - rök!

41

f
Jör - mun - gan - dr lets

f
Jör - mun - gan - dr lets

mf
O -

mf
O -

Ped. *

44

go his tail snar - ers to the shore,

go his tail and slith - ers to the shore,

din's _____ first - born son,

din's _____ first - born son,

Ped.

47

Thor is read - y with ham - mer strikes from a might - y God of

Thor is read - y with ham - mer strikes from a might - y God of

Thor's _____ fight _____ has be -

Thor's _____ fight _____ has be -

50

war! _____ Mid - gard Ser-pent spits end - less ven-om while

war! _____ Mid - gard Ser-pent spits end - less ven-om while

gun. _____ Mid - gard Ser-pent spits end - less ven-om while

gun. _____ Mid - gard Ser-pent spits end - less ven-om while

53

Mjol - nir finds its mark, Thor is vic - tor but

Mjol - nir finds its mark, Thor is vic - tor but

Mjol - nir finds its mark, Thor is vic - tor but

Mjol - nir finds its mark, Thor is vic - tor but

56

ven - om takes him, his eyes go dark.

ven - om takes him, his eyes go dark.

ven - om takes him, his eyes go dark.

ven - om takes him, his eyes go dark.

59

Rag - na - rök! Val - hal - la burns_ in the_

Rag-na-rök! The twi-light of the Gods,_ Val - hal - la burns_ in the_

Rag-na-rök! The twi-light of the Gods,_ Val - hal - la burns_ in the_

Rag-na-rök! Val - hal - la burns_ in the_

62

at - tack._ Rag - na - rök! The

at - tack._ Rag-na-rök! The world or - der chang-es, the

at - tack._ Rag-na-rök! The world or - der chang-es, the

at - tack._ Rag-na-rök! the

65

8 stars are gone_ the sun___ turns black.. Rag - na - rök!_

8 stars are gone_ the sun___ turns black.. Rag - na - rök!_

stars are gone_ the sun___ turns black.. Rag - na - rök!_

stars are gone_ the sun___ turns black.. All of

68

8 Rag - na - rök!_ All of Mid - gärd stands a - flame..

8 Rag - na - rök!_ All of Mid - gärd stands a - flame..

Rag - na - rök!_ All of Mid - gärd stands a - flame..

Mid - gärd stands a - flame.

71

Musical score for measures 71-73. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "Rag-na - rök!". The piano part consists of a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

74

Musical score for measures 74-76. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "Rag-na - rök!". The piano part continues with the same eighth-note melody and bass line as in the previous system.

77

The fi - nal bat - tle! O - din, King of the Gods, — bat - tles with the

The fi - nal bat - tle! O - din, King of the Gods, — bat - tles with the

The fi - nal bat - tle! O - din, King of the Gods, — bat - tles with the

The fi - nal bat - tle! O - din, King of the Gods, — bat - tles with the

80

gi - ant wolf, Fen - rir, and los - es his life. — Vi - dar, son of O - din,

gi - ant wolf, Fen - rir, and los - es his life. — Vi - dar, son of O - din,

gi - ant wolf, Fen - rir, and los - es his life. — Vi - dar, son of O - din,

gi - ant wolf, Fen - rir, and los - es his life. — Vi - dar, son of O - din,

83

has his re-venge, he sends Fen - rir to his af - ter-life. And the

has his re-venge, he sends Fen - rir to his af - ter-life. And the

has his re-venge, he sends Fen - rir to his af - ter-life. And the

has his re-venge, he sends Fen - rir to his af - ter-life. And the

PREVIEW

86

molto rit.

= 92

land sinks in deep.

land sinks in to the deep.

land sinks in to the deep.

land sinks in to the deep.

mp

Ped. **Ped.*

90 *mf*

With the war now o - ver, and the earth re -

mf

With the war now o - ver, and the earth re -

mf

With the war now o - ver, and the earth re -

mf

With the war now o - ver, and the earth re -

mf

* Led. * Led. * Led.

PREVIEW

93

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* Led. * simile

96

Musical score for measures 96-98. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "sea. No e - vil".

99

Musical score for measures 99-101. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is three sharps and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "No e - vil found. The end is the be - gin - ing, with".

102 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 72$

Bal - der bring - ing beau - ty and light.

Bal - der bring - ing beau - ty and light.

Bal - der bring - ing beau - ty and light.

Bal - der bring - ing beau - ty and light.

105 *Stage whisper - foreboding - directed* **mp** **molto rall.**

Rag - na - rök Rag - na - rök Rag - na - rök

Rag - na - rök Rag - na - rök Rag - na - rök

Rag - na - rök Rag - na - rök Rag - na - rök

(sung) Jör - mun - gan - dr. _____

mp **ad libitum**

DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY

Ragnarök

(Destiny of the Gods)

Jörmungandr, Midgard Serpent.

Midgard Serpent cast out by Odin and thrown into the sea.
Foe of Thor, no one could foresee all the strength and size he would be.
He encircled the earth, he moves and the mountains tremble and quake,
Destiny of the Gods and Giants are with this snake.
Son of Loki prepares for war, lightning flashes, thunder roars.

Ragnarök! The twilight of the Gods, the earth by fire and floods consumed.
Ragnarök! The world order changes, even Gods must meet their doom.

Jörmungandr lets go his tail and slithers to the shore,
Thor is ready with hammer strikes from a mighty God of war!
Midgard Serpent spits endless venom while Mjólnir finds its mark,
Thor is victor but venom takes him, his eyes go dark.

Ragnarök! The twilight of the Gods, Valhalla burns in the attack,
Ragnarök! The world order changes, the stars are gone, the sun turns black.
Ragnarök! All of Midgard stands aflame. Ragnarök! The final battle!

Odin, King of the Gods, battles with the giant wolf, Fenrir, and loses his life.
Vidar, son of Odin, has his revenge, he sends Fenrir to his afterlife.
And the land sinks into the deep.

The war now over, and the earth re-born, I see the land climbing up from the sea.
No evil found, the end is the beginning, with Balder bringing beauty and light.

The Lyrics are inspired by Völuspa (Prophecy of the Seeress) from the first poem in the ancient Norse text, the Poetic Edda. The Poetic Edda is the modern name for an untitled collection of old Norse anonymous narrative poems composed between AD 800–1100. They were not written until the 13th century by the Icelandic chieftain, poet, and historian Snorri Sturluson. These Norse prophecies influenced other cultures and people including JRR Tolkien (Lord of the Rings) and Richard Wagner (Der Rings des Nibelungen). They are, of course, part of modern culture through Marvel movies and video games. My attempt in the text is to stay as accurate as possible to the original although this is, perhaps, impossible as there are many translations of the Poetic Edda but none of the translators were fluent in ancient Icelandic script.

Terms and names used in the text in order of appearance are:

Ragnarök: RAG-na-rök (ö pronounced as “ah” with lips rounded like “oh”) The foreseen battle between gods that will destroy the world, but some people and benevolent gods survive to start the world over as a better place.

Jörmungandr (YÖR-muhn-gan-der): The Midgard Serpent, son of Loki and cast into the sea by Odin. He grew to encircle Midgard and held the end of his tail. He is an enemy of Thor and when he lets go of his tail, Ragnarök begins.

Midgard: Middle earth where people (not gods and creatures) live.

Odin: God of war and death and many other things. Father of Thor and stepfather of Loki.

Thor: God of thunder, lightning and lesser god of war among other things.

Loki: God of mischief and deception and is the adopted son of Odin.

Mjólnir (mi-OL-nir): Thor’s hammer

Valhalla (val-HAL-uh): The home of Odin, other gods and fallen warriors.

Fenrir (FEN-rir): A giant wolf and one of Loki’s sons.

Vidar (VI-dar): A son of Odin and God of vengeance.

Balder (BAL-der): Another son of Odin and God of light and beauty.