

Lever Harp

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

Text adaptation and original music by

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*7 Stars Publishing*

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DEMETER  
AND  
PERSEPHONE

## About the Text

Many of us have had our first introduction to the story of the "Rape of Persphone" as summed up in classic high school mythology texts. However, the story is far deeper and broader than these versions even begin to relate. The original story comes to us as one of a number of Homeric hymns, which were shorter poems, intended as preludes to the longer epics. This hymn, titled "To Demeter," begins:

"I begin to sing of lovely-haired Demeter, the awesome goddess,  
of her and her slender-ankled daughter..."\*

It is a many-leveled tale, nearly five hundred lines long, full of extraordinarily beautiful poetry. And the poem is rightly titled, as it is possibly more about Demeter and her sojourn on the Earth as she aches for her daughter than it is about Persephone. The poem tells us that this is no simple abduction, but an event resulting from a conspiracy of the highest of gods, all for the sake of the increase of love where it is lacking. We learn that thanks to this "rape," a new relationship between the world of men and the world of the gods is made. We hear that Demeter shares secret rituals, forming the body of the Eleusinian mysteries--revelations that bless and sustain Mankind.

The current text is a loose adaptation of this original hymn.

The original production was by the arts troupe Singing Harp,  
Hanah Lavan, storyteller, with the composer at the harp.

## Acknowledgements

Many thanks to S.K. Chapin for assistance with the text and valuable help with understanding the relevant Greek culture.

\*Thank you also to A.N. Athanassakis, for the wonderful translation of the original text.

This part is designed for lever harp with a range from two octaves below middle C to two and a half octaves above middle C.

A medium pitched drum--such as a bodhran floor tom--is called for on p.11. Rhythmically striking the lowest wire string with a hard mallet can be substituted if necessary. A suspended cymbal is needed at the end of the piece.

Harmonics written where played.

The tremolos written at the bottoms of p.10 and p. 14 are played by rapidly moving the 2nd finger back & forth across the string, striking in both directions.

Notes are enharmonically written as played in the original production to facilitate lever changes.

Lever changes are identified according to pedal harp notation, each octave starting with E, and going down to F, the first octave being highest. So third space treble C is C3, lowest space treble F is F3, middle C is C4, etc.

Cautionary accidentals are given with regard to lever changes, not according to general musical convention.

Muffles are generally not indicated, but are desired wherever L.V. makes the harmony blurry.

Dynamics are intentionally left out, as they will be primarily determined by the balance with the storyteller's voice, the acoustics of the theater, etc. Most of the harp music is underscoring for text, and should be approached that way. The dramatic aspects of the story are the primary considerations.

The tempi indicated are as performed in the original production, given to show the theatrical and emotional quality of the music. Generally it is preferred to keep close to the original tempi when possible, and resolve timing issues with the "vamps" or "ad libs" included in the score.

Where tempi are not indicated, it means the previous tempo continues. The exceptions to this are sections that are out of time/ad lib, and marked as such.

All sections are intended to flow directly one into another, with minimal breaks. Suggested stop cues are often written as "ad lib to;" any vamps or ad libs are intended to take place before that text, so that music and text finish together.

The texts at the beginning of musical sections are given to provide a sense of the relationship between text and musical atmosphere; they may either immediately precede the start of the music, or be spoken with the music as underscore, at the discretion of the performers.

Where there is text between a written stop cue and the next start cue, that text should be in the clear.

Where there is no stop cue indicated, the music should finish as written--text resumes at next written cue.

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

Alyssa Reit

set G#2 F#2  
Bb3 F#3  
Bb4 G#4 F#4  
C#5 Bb5 F#5 Eb6

Molto rubato, misterioso

♩ = 76

Harp

"They say that in the Beginning."

*rit.*

♩ = 63

F#3

Ab3

*ad lib to "Divine Love"*

"The second world"

F#2

G#2

*rit.*

♩ = 50

*ad lib to "divine beings above"*

"The third world is the underworld"

A#3

*rit.*

♩ = 42

*ad lib to "vengefulness"*

"The fourth world is Tartarus"

*ad lib to "release them"*

"This is the whole Cosmos"

G#4 F#4 C#5 F#5

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

♩ = 76

"Do you ever think about the seasons?"

*vamp if needed*

"everything was plentiful"

"But things changed"

"Demeter cries"

E ♭ 6

B ♭ 4

B ♭ 3

F # 3

"Golden-tressed Demeter"

*cont. ad lib until*

"Where has she gone?"

♩ = 100

"Some say it all started with Aphrodite"

♩ = 72

"But where was Love needed?"

"One day"

B ♭ 4

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

♩ = 104

"She looked down and noticed Hades"

B♭ 4

♩ = ♩

"Eros, she said."

as fast as possible

"Eros let the arrow fly"

♩. = 63

*rit.*

"And that arrow of Love"

"His heart opened"

"Oh! ...A strange new sensation, a pain, an ache, burned in him"

B♭ 4  
E♭ 5



# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

♩ = 66

"He felt he was missing something."

"He looked up from his shadowy world"

♩ = 112

"his eye fell upon trim -ankled Persephone"

F # 2

♩ = ♩

"He went to his brother, Zeus"

"He ordained the marriage."

E b 3

+ - - - - -

♩ . = 66

"Zeus got the help of Gaia"

repeat as needed

repeat as needed

♩ = 46 (repeat until next cue)

"A chasm opened in the earth!"

"The Earth closed over them!"

"Then all was still."

"Demeter felt her daughter's distress"

B b 3

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

"Carrying two torches"  
E 3 F# 2

F# 3

"Have you seen my daughter?"

"She looked everywhere."

*rit.*

"Her despair grew greater and greater."  
C# 4

"Finally, in desperation"

*cont. ad lib until*

"journey across the sky."

$\text{♩} = 52$

(Stopped notes)-----

"Ohhh..."

*(Music cues text)*

*repeat until* "Demeter left Olympus"

*out of time*

"She wandered for days"  
C# 4 B# 4

$\text{♩} = 52$

"Some daughters of Keleus"

"They could see the suffering"

"Ah, children, since you ask"

*cont. to "do the housework."*

$\text{♩} = 88$  *(repeat ad lib as needed)*  $\text{♩} = 56$

5

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

$\text{♩} = 72$   $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  *cont. ad lib as needed*

"They brought her"  
E♭ 5

"As soon as she walked"

"Even though she was dressed"  
B♭ 3

"welcomed her"

*sim.*

"Metaneira offered the goddess her own seat"

"stood there silently."

*sim.*

"Finally one of the household women"

"sad and unsmiling."

*sim.*

"They offered her food"

"for a long time."

**fast**  $\text{♩} = 192$

"Again Iambe could sense"

"She told Demeter amusing, bawdy stories"

"Again Iambe could sense"

"She told Demeter amusing, bawdy stories"

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

♩ = 69

"Metaniera came to her"

"See our young son..."

*repeat until* "and she picked the boy up"

♩ = 92

"It made Metaneira's heart glad"

♩ = ♩

♩ = 63

"So Demeter cared for the boy"

**Bb 4**

"putting him in the red hot coals"

♩ = 88

"The boy prospered"

**Bb 4**

**Eb 3**

**Eb 4**

♩ = 69

**C# 3 C# 4**

"But for some strange reason"

*cont. until* "She saw the Goddess put the baby in the fire!"

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

$\text{♩} = 72$  *rit.*

"Metaneira screamed!"  $E \flat D \sharp C \sharp B \flat A \flat G \flat F \flat$   
Wild glisses, ad lib

"My child!" *cont. until* "full of anguish"

$\text{♩} = 48$

Demeter became angry..."  $E \flat 4$

$\text{♩} = 96$

"Showed herself radiant"

"Ignorant are ye mortals..."  $E \flat 4$  *cont. until* "Then the Goddess left."

[Slow pulse, using low drum]

$\text{♩} = 60$

"Metaniera's knees buckled"  $F \sharp 5$  *cont. ad lib until* "They picked up the poor child"

(norm.)

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$  *rit.*

"Prayed all night"  $C \flat 3$  "Told Keleus"  $C \flat 4$

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

♩. = ♩

"Everyone was terrified."

(finish music)

3/4

3/4

Detailed description: This system shows a piano accompaniment for the text "Everyone was terrified." The music is in common time (C) and 3/4 time. The right hand features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a steady bass line with eighth notes. The system concludes with a final chord and a fermata over the last note.

♩ = 48

"Demeter went to the temple"

(finish text)

C# 4

(stopped notes-)-----

3/4

3/4

Detailed description: This system shows a piano accompaniment for the text "Demeter went to the temple." The music is in 3/4 time. The right hand has whole rests, while the left hand plays a bass line of eighth notes. The system ends with a fermata and the instruction "(stopped notes-)" followed by a dashed line.

♩ = 80

"mankind suffered"

E b 5

G# 4

Detailed description: This system shows a piano accompaniment for the text "mankind suffered." The music is in common time (C) and 80 BPM. The right hand has a melody with eighth notes, and the left hand has whole rests. Chord symbols E b 5 and G# 4 are indicated below the staff.

B b 3

A b 3

A b 3

(finish music)

C

C

Detailed description: This system shows a piano accompaniment for the text "Zeus became disturbed." The music is in common time (C) and 3/4 time. The right hand has a melody with eighth notes, and the left hand has whole rests. Chord symbols B b 3, A b 3, and A b 3 are indicated below the staff. The system ends with a fermata and the instruction "(finish music)".

♩ = 52

♩ = 46

"Zeus became disturbed"

C# 4

E b 4

"Zeus sent each of the Gods"

G# 4

3

3

2/4

2/4

Detailed description: This system shows a piano accompaniment for two lines of text. The first line, "Zeus became disturbed," is in common time (C) and 52 BPM. The second line, "Zeus sent each of the Gods," is in 2/4 time and 46 BPM. The right hand has a melody with eighth notes and triplets. The left hand has a bass line with eighth notes. Chord symbols C# 4, E b 4, and G# 4 are indicated below the staff.

B b 4

(finish music)

(extend if needed)

"But Demeter's mind was not persuaded"

C

C

Detailed description: This system shows a piano accompaniment for the text "But Demeter's mind was not persuaded." The music is in common time (C) and 3/4 time. The right hand has a melody with eighth notes, and the left hand has whole rests. Chord symbols B b 4 and C are indicated below the staff. The system ends with a fermata and the instruction "(extend if needed)".

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# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

(R.H. stopped)-----

"She remained in her temple"

(finish music)

E♭ 5

♩ = 80

"Finally Zeus could allow this no further."

"Hermes, go below to Hades."

B♭ 3

B♭ 5

♩ = ♩.

"Fleet-footed Hermes set out"

"When he arrived."



# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

$\text{♩} = 48$

"Hades!," said Hermes" **B $\sharp$  4** **B $\flat$  4**

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$   $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

**B $\sharp$  4** **B $\flat$  4** **B $\sharp$  4**

$\text{♩} = 44$   $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

"With a knowing smile" *cont. ad lib until*  
"greatest honor of all the Gods."

**fast**  $\text{♩} = 42$

"Persephone sprang up" **E $\sharp$  3** "see her mother again" **E $\flat$  6** *5* *repeat as needed* *5* "Now, that clever Hades!" "Why did she do that?"

$\text{♩} = 138$

"Hermes led her out" **B $\sharp$  3**

$\text{♩} = 96$  **unmeasured**

"The two women flew" "My child, my child!" *cont. ad lib until* "But wait!" "Tell me..... return to the underworld"

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

♩ = 96

(silence)

"Persephone answered her"

repeat ad lib until

"Hmm."

E ♭ 6

"Did he really ...  
...eat those seeds?"

♩ = 56 *molto rit.*

"The two Goddesses talked"

E ♭ 5 F # 4

"The fields still stood idle"

E ♭ 5

♩ = 63

"Zeus sent another messenger"

F # 3

repeat ad lib until "allow the harvest to grow."

♩ = 56

"Demeter listened..."

F # 5 F # 4

F # 2

"fragrant and fertile"

"And now Demeter did something"

(Continue ad lib as needed)

"Connect Mankind to the Gods"

♩ = 100

Demeter and Persephone went to Olympus..."

"Persephone knows..."

# DEMETER AND PERSEPHONE

"where Hades needs a wife"

"worthy husband"

$\text{♩} = 152$

"Every year, mother and daughter suffer"

"Rejoice"

$\text{♩} = 72$

"When she stays with..."

$B\flat 2 \quad F\sharp 2$

"Demeter is sad"

*extend ad lib to*

$E\flat 6$

"cold and hungry"

$\text{♩} = 72$

"Then the people must reach out..."

*continue ad lib to*

"in this time of lack"

"Perhaps the great Zeus"

$\text{♩} = 72$

"Cycles of winter and summer"

"They say that those who shun..."

$F\sharp 2 \quad G\sharp 2 \quad B\flat 2$

*Cymbal taps ad lib, out of time*

$\text{♩} = 72$

"The great philosopher"

*continue ad lib, alternating music with cymbal taps*

"do you think her wish was granted?"

$\text{♩} = 72$