

Scoring Definitions:

10	Top Quality / Outstanding
9 - 9.9	Very Good
8 - 8.9	Above Average / Good
7 - 7.9	Average / Standard / Satisfactory
6 - 6.9	Below Average / Sub-Standard
5 - 5.9	Unsatisfactory
4 - 4.9	
3 - 3.9	Poor
2 - 2.9	
1 - 1.9	
0 - 0.9	

Awards (badges) by category:

(the highest scoring entry in each category will be awarded the corresponding badge)

Melodies Themes Motives	Harmony Chords Textures	Form Development Structure Time	Originality Creativity	Score Presentation	Instrumentation Orchestration Playability	Execution of Given Challenge	Taste
"Tune Smith"	"Ingenious Harmonizer"	"Musical Architect"	"Musical Explorer"	"Immaculate Engraver"	"Outstanding Orchestrator"	Theme Winner - "Dreamscapes" Competition	"Impeccable Taste"

Oneiromancer: Thatguy v.2.0
Entry D - "Argonauta"
(for Contrabass and Piano)

Melodies Themes Motives	Harmony Chords Textures	Form Development Structure Time	Originality Creativity	Score Presentation	Instrumentation Orchestration Playability	Execution of Given Challenge	Taste
7	8	8	7	10	9	7	9

Average Score: **8.13**

Review:

Definitely an epic ride! I'm a big fan of diminished scales, and your music is full of them. The score is fantastic, thanks for the extra effort to make it presentable, I'm always a fan of a composer who takes the time to care for their craftsmanship.

Extra points for the unique ensemble...you a bass player? The writing in this was great! Awesome music here, this is a piece I look forward to hearing again.

Oneiromancer: PeterthePapercomPoser
Entry D - "Argonauta"
(for Contrabass and Piano)

Melodies Themes Motives	Harmony Chords Textures	Form Development Structure Time	Originality Creativity	Score Presentation	Instrumentation Orchestration Playability	Execution of Given Challenge	Taste
9	9	7.9	8	10	10	6	8

Average Score: **8.49**

Review:

Disclaimer: This competition is very challenging to judge because of how much enthusiasm it has received from composers who have already composed their music ahead of time (and in many cases have managed to get some superb and potentially superior live recordings of their music). They have adapted their music to fit the theme of this competition which is their right in their effort to secure their chance to win. However, I must preface my reviews of such works by saying that I am biased towards works written for this competition.

This is quite an action-packed score! Very exciting, energetic and vivacious. And the performance and recording is wonderful. As you mentioned in your description however, the piece is titled "Argonauta" because "the word can refer to either nautical adventurers or a specific genus of octopuses with large eyes and webbed tentacles". Even though you say you had a dream about these adventures/creatures, the score says that this piece was composed in 2022, so I'm inclined to believe it wasn't written for the theme of the competition. (Although, now that I read your program notes in detail in the score pdf, my view is thrown into doubt about whether this was a composition that was simply "poorly adapted" to fit the theme of this competition, since you did mention that you dreamt about the events you portrayed there as well.)

But the piece is quite effective at portraying what it was actually meant to be. The contrabass sounds very "damp" and aquatic. I can easily imagine your underwater and high-seas adventures which you meant to represent with this music. I think your use of the octatonic scale is effective and you still manage to visit quite a few key centers throughout the composition. The recurring ostinati keep the drive and energy of this exhilarating piece fairly high! The themes are lucid and quite cinematic in their scope. They are memorable and I find myself able to whistle or hum them after the composition is long done.

The music isn't quite dreamy enough though. The experience of dreaming rarely survives the high level of intensity that this piece exhibits.

Oneiromancer: Henry Ng Tsz Kiu
Entry D - "Argonauta"
(for Contrabass and Piano)

Melodies Themes Motives	Harmony Chords Textures	Form Development Structure Time	Originality Creativity	Score Presentation	Instrumentation Orchestration Playability	Execution of Given Challenge	Taste
8	9	7.8	8.5	9.9	9.5	7	9

Average Score: **8.59**

Review: This is a really energetic piece. The octatonic scales, harmony and modulations set the unsettling mood, and when combined with the polyrhythm the music is always moving forward. The extended techniques for the double bass is very idiomatic to the instrument and fitted to the mood without using them for the sake of using them only, especially the molto sul ponticello which adds spices and intensity to the already exciting music. The melody is very captivating, even though it can be further developed in the reprise of the A section. The contrasting B section is very effective with changed mood, dynamics, piano accompaniment, double bass pizzicato and rhythmic intensity. Since this is a piece featuring the contrabassist, the pianist is given less melodic significance when it usually doubles contrabass's melody, but it provides good rhythmic significance with the polyrhythms. The live recording is an excellent demonstration of your work. Although this is a very competent piece in itself, the piece is less suited to the theme of dreams for the competition. With many great entries submitted in this competition, entries that are composed for the competition and suited the theme of the competition will be considered more advantageous, and I hope you will understand the judgment since this is a very difficult one.

Oneiromancer: Omicronrg9
Entry D - "Argonauta"
(for Contrabass and Piano)

Melodies Themes Motives	Harmony Chords Textures	Form Development Structure Time	Originality Creativity	Score Presentation	Instrumentation Orchestration Playability	Execution of Given Challenge	Taste
8	8.5	8	8.5	9	8	7	10

Average Score: **8.38 out of 10**

Review:

Let's go.

I like the beginning a lot and the way the composer has conceived this piece, specially for the piano. The combination of instruments is not *that usual* and sounds great (again no extra points for sound quality, sorry, but no less points for the fact this is a commissioned piece and it is indeed not made specifically for the competition of course). What a vivid dream this is by the way, the climax of the piece (at the end of it) is of epic proportions, but while I enjoyed it a lot I am not sure if it is "too much" for that, a dream.

It seems not easy to play, but the composer has included rehearsal markings, the score itself is very carefully crafted (though 8va bassa in the left hand would not have hurt at certain places, in my opinion) and overall it is so clean despite of the abundance of articulation markings that again I highly value as they indicate to me that the composer does care about their piece and that they have a clear view of how it must sound.

The presentation is very much fine, as one would expect for a piece by a composer who values their work. Thank you for participating in this competition whatever the result be (and this goes for everyone).

Oneiromancer: chopin
Entry D - "Argonauta"
(for Contrabass and Piano)

Melodies Themes Motives	Harmony Chords Textures	Form Development Structure Time	Originality Creativity	Score Presentation	Instrumentation Orchestration Playability	Execution of Given Challenge	Taste
8.75	8.25	9.25	7.5	9	10	7	8

Average Score: **8.47**

Review:

Very well developed and recurring theme, and love the instrumentation. The double bass (along with the viola) often gets neglected, but it's such a powerful instrument. This piece is a great way to demonstrate how it can be used effectively, especially the powerful pizzicato.

While this piece is very well written, I don't feel it fits the theme of "dreams". What we have here is a very well composed piece with the mood of "battle" here. I suppose you could fit this into a dream where you are in fact being attacked by "cephalopods", but if the music just doesn't convince me "mood-wise" I have to put that into consideration for this competition. As the composer, describing music is not enough. More importantly, the actual music has to fit the theme, and convince the listener. For example, if I were to create a video around dreams, this is just not a piece that I would use. However, if I had created a suspenseful mood in one of my videos, and I wanted to portray that theme musically, this piece is spot on.