

# The Odyssey

## Part I - Odysseus' Theme / Overture

music / orchestration - Romeo ( instrumental )

## Part II - Journey to Ithaca

music - Romeo, lyrics - Allen, Romeo

To the one that I love, my journey has begun  
When our eyes meet once more there will me peace  
The taste of your lips the warmth of your touch  
Again, forever, two souls as one

Seems like forever that my eyes have been denied  
Home - I'm dreaming of home  
I've been twenty years away from all I ever knew  
To return would make my dreams come true

Seasons of sorrow have stolen all my years  
I miss the rolling hills of Ithaca  
I've been through battles and cried a sea of tears  
But the tide is changing, and with it all my fears

Seems like forever that my eyes have been denied  
Home - I'm dreaming of home  
I've been twenty years away from all I ever knew  
To return would make my dreams come true

Behold the sea and winds of Jove  
We set sail guided by the stars above  
The ports of Troy escape our view  
A cold and stormy fate awaits our rendezvous

Onward we ride, into the raging fury  
Setting our course by the moon and sun  
We forge ahead seeking glory  
Yet the journey has just begun

Onward we ride - nine days we brave her might  
We are coming home...

## Part III - The Eye

music - Romeo, lyrics - Romeo

Awakened at dawn - Land dead ahead  
With the winds of the morning we change course  
No remorse, a place forbidden to all

Search all the grounds - find food and water  
Yet journey not into the Cave of Woe  
Long ago, a legend spoke of a beast

A thousand riches hidden deep within the stone  
A thousand nightmares  
Mortal's blood forever flows

A mountainous black - engulfed in a shadow  
A bone-chilling growl and an Eye of Hate  
A ghastly fate - held prisoner by the Eye

Yet he must sleep - as the daylight fades  
We focus our senses and sharpen our blade  
We take aim - In silence we strike

A thousand riches hidden deep within the stone  
A thousand nightmares - blood runs forever  
From the Eye...

## Part IV - Circe (Daughter of the Sun)

music - Romeo, lyrics - Romeo

We sit adrift on the open sea  
The gift of wind, by Zeus, concealed - so carelessly  
We break the waves on a course untrue  
Across the endless plain of blue, a new coast in view

We carouse with the maiden  
Beneath her eyes the madness lies... in mystery

I drink deep from the chalice of gold and jade  
My senses fade... I'm mesmerized

Stay - like those before - I condemn you all  
From walk to crawl... metamorphasized

No - my will it defies her  
Speak the verse - lift the curse... she's mesmerized

Am I asleep? Tell me Daughter of the Sun  
There's vengeance in the air  
And all things will be undone

## Part V - Sirens

music - Romeo, lyrics - Romeo

Dire warnings - told by the sorceress in white  
'False bringers of love' - Sirens  
Echoing songs from above  
Wings flowing - floating on Sea of Lies  
I defy their vision Elysium swallows my cries

Embracing - maidens of lust stimulate  
And manipulate my senses  
I welcome a watery grave

Tied steadfast to the mast tragedy awaits me  
I'm falling - victim betrayed by the sea

## Part VI - Scylla and Charybdis

a) Gulf of Doom  
b) Drifting Home

music / orchestration - Romeo  
( instrumental )

## Part VII - The Fate of the Suitors / Champion of Ithaca

music - Romeo, lyrics - Lepond, Romeo

So this is home...  
In the guise of a beggar - Minerva guides my way  
I find my kingdom in jeopardy

Vengeance - it swells within me  
As I spy so many who eye my Queen  
I'll make them pay for this blasphemy...  
All will see

Triumphant - Champion of Ithaca  
I will right all the wrongs  
Let the Gods sing my song  
Triumphant - Champion of Ithaca  
Let a new life begin  
My journey has come to and end

A contest of valor  
'To pierce the twelve rings  
In a single arrow's flight'  
Yet, not a one can string the bow

My veil of silence lifted  
All is revealed  
Revenge burns in my heart  
Thrashing and slashing down all my foes...  
To claim the throne

Triumphant - Champion of Ithaca  
I will right all the wrongs  
Let the Gods sing my song  
Triumphant - Champion of Ithaca  
Let a new life begin  
This is the end of my Odyssey

Seems like forever  
That my eyes have been denied  
Home - I'm finally home  
It's been twenty years away from all I ever knew  
I have returned to make my dream come true

## Masquerade (Bonus track)

music - Romeo, Pinnella, Miller, Rullo and Tyler

Shackled in darkness  
The forbidden portrait confined to it's frame  
Unbroken silence  
A total misfortune and shame

Ragin obsession  
This mask of oppression  
It hides your aggression from view  
This tearing suture  
Renounces the love he once knew

Your sacrifice this paradise of innocence  
Trust the lie - you falsify the line of truth  
You disguise your insolence  
Don't deny insanity - mediocrity

Save us from this masquerade of lies  
Kings and fools die in ridicule (save us)  
Save us from this masquerade of lies

A fallen fortress sees him beneath starless skies  
Subsiding deeper - the final farewell in his eyes

Unspoken hero  
Distrusted and thrust within surmise  
Seizing intrusion to unveil his clever disguise

Your sacrifice this paradise of innocence  
Trust the lie - you falsify the line of truth

Save us from this masquerade of lies  
Kings and fools die in ridicule (save us)  
Save us from this masquerade of lies

[solo]

Save us from this masquerade of lies  
Kings and fools die in ridicule (save us)  
Save us from this masquerade of lies

RUSSELL ALLEN - Vocals  
MICHAEL ROMEO - All electric and  
acoustic guitars, (orchestral keyboards  
and programming)  
MICHAEL PINNELLA - Piano, keyboards  
MICHAEL LEPOND - Bass  
JASON RULLO - Drums

SYMPHONY X THANKS: Thomas Waber and Michael Schmitz at Insideout Music, Jim Pitulski and Bob Snyder at Insideout America, Olivier Garnier at NTS, Eric Rachel, Steve Evetts, Leroy Aiello, Glenn Fitzgerald, Jax, Deron Blevins and all the guys of the TEOF network, Matthew, Pedro, David, Jason and everyone else (past and present... you know who you are... thanks!), Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal, Jack Frost (thanks for the amp!), Bill Ahearn, Dan Dunphy, Roger Weissner, Fabrice Guittard, Ernst Seider, Chris Graaf, Eddie Maluk, DawnMarie Giuliano and a BIG thanks to all our fans and friends around the world... see you soon!  
MICHAEL ROMEO WOULD LIKE TO THANK: My family: Christina, Tia and Michael, (for putting up with this band's shenanigans on a daily basis), Harry and Lynn Romeo, The Ioannides family, Eric Rachel and Steve Evetts for their invaluable assistance during the recording sessions.

RUSSELL ALLEN WOULD LIKE TO THANK: Mom and Dad, my sister Stephanie, my nephew James, Christie Chomko, the Boop family, Christina Romeo and the Romeo family, the Ayola family, the Peckham family, Rhath Morhino and family (thanks for letting me sing in the kitchen.) Dana and Henry "because I want to and I can.", Thom Dupont, David Fritz, Joe Baxter, and the Knights of the Realm.

MICHAEL PINNELLA WOULD LIKE TO THANK: My wife Jen, for all her support, Gracie, Mikey and Dan.

MIKE LEPOND WOULD LIKE TO THANK: God, Mom and Dad, Gary, Christy, Dale, Frank, Ziggy, Brian, Jay, and all my new friends that I have met on tour.  
JASON RULLO WOULD LIKE TO THANK: Cristiane, Mom, Boop, and Asaliah, Brian and Russ, Sonny Igoe, Dom Famularo, Joe Bergamini, Danny Tocci, Sabian Cymbals, Marco and Vic Firth drumsticks.

Recorded at the Symphony X Dungeon  
Engineered and Produced by Michael Romeo  
Mixed by Steve Evetts and Michael Romeo  
Mastered by Peter van 't Riet  
Bandphotos by Eddie Malluk  
Coverartwork by Tom Thiel @ Illuvision  
Layout by Thomas Ewerhard

All songs © 2002 Darkpriz Publishing

## L I N E R N O T E S

### "Inferno ( Unleash the Fire )"

*Michael Romeo:* On this CD, like all those previous, we try to come up with new ideas and different musical approaches. This time, we were after a more raw and "in your face" sound, which is why I like this song as the opening track. The 'moto perpetuo' guitar line against the odd-meter groove gives a feeling of urgency, which is also suggestive in the lyrics. Also, this tune touches on most of the elements found throughout the rest of the CD... the 'up front' guitars, drums and vocal - the soaring, melodic chorus - the dueling solo section - and Russell's wide range of expression in the vocals. All are apparent in this track. One of my favorites.

*Jason Rullo:* When I first heard the finished version I couldn't believe it was the same song as in pre-production. Some songs really come to life and they are not always the songs you expect, as was the case with Inferno. The vocals added some attitude and the guitar riffs really stand out. The material on this album is a little different than anything we've done in terms of the groove, I think there's more of it on this CD than any others of ours to date.

### "Wicked"

*Russell Allen:* I actually did some pre-production work on this and a few other tracks at my friends house. The funny part was that I had setup a small studio in his kitchen. The inspiration for the lyrics on this one came from visions I was seeing in my mind of a traveler seeking shelter for the night in an old cemetery. It's pretty much a story of seduction. The groove on this track is sick and it's one of my fav mid-tempo riffs that I've ever heard from Romeo.

*Michael Romeo:* As Russ said, lyrically it is about an unlucky traveler in an unlucky cemetery on an unlucky night. It should be no surprise that the opening riff is in 13.

Sometimes a cool riff comes along and you just gotta go with it.

### "Incantations of the Apprentice"

*Michael Romeo:* I was tinkering with this 'string line / guitar riff ' late one night in the Dungeon, and Russ was here working on these lyrics. In the past, he had mentioned that he wanted to have a tune where the verse was more open, with some stops and space for the vocals. This turned out to be that song. Being that the lyrics were based on "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by French composer - Paul Dukas, my original thought was to incorporate a large section of the actual score into the song, with orchestra and the band. It didn't seem to fit and slowed the momentum of the song down... so we scratched it. Although there are still hints of the original Dukas melody in the guitar solo section. Cool stuff.

*Russell Allen:* I remember watching "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" from Disney's "Fantasia" in the studio. So, I got this idea for a story of an apprentice who travels to a mysterious place in order to learn the ways of a powerful necromancer. Romeo had this string line that ended up being the anchoring melody in the track. This song was crafted back in January and it was the first track that me and Mike R. collaborated on for this album. It's one of my favorites because the verse sections are unlike anything we have done before and I thoroughly enjoyed creating this mystical track.

### "Accolade 2"

*Russell Allen:* This is obviously another poem of a knight's tale. This one I loosely based on a mix of the Braveheart and Robin Hood stories. Keying in on the similarities like there pursuit to honor their father's name - that's really the basic theme of this Accolade. I played the part of a knight for so many years. I hold this and the original Accolade very close to me. Again, the music is stellar and I love it when the band does tracks like these because

their playing makes my job so easy. It's not hard to find the right emotional tone for a track when the band paints the sonic scenery behind you.

*Michael Pinnella:* We really liked the story of the first Accolade and wanted to make almost a sequel - starting off where the first one ended. Accolade I was loaded with melodic and rhythmic themes that we brought back and re-developed. Being that the story line was similar, it wasn't hard to come up with new themes and melodies, as well.

### "King of Terrors"

*Michael Lepond:* My favorite song on the CD. It is the perfect marriage of metal and melody. I can't wait to play this one live. It's gonna kill...

*Michael Romeo:* Another one of my favorites. I love the narrative section - reminds me of an old horror flick. Vincent Price, perhaps? The middle section riffage is very cool!

### "The Turning"

*Michael Lepond:* Mike (Romeo) and I really just wanted to write a kick ass, in your face, metal tune with this one. This track reminds me a little bit of "Sea of Lies" from "The Divine Wings of Tragedy" CD. The sonic riffing combined with Russ' punishing vocals make for a lethal combination.

*Michael Romeo:* Listening to the first guitar solo in this song makes me laugh because I think about the dialog between Steve Evetts and myself during the mixdown... for every song, it went something like this.... Mike R.: "Dude, don't you think the guitar solo is kinda loud?" Steve: "What?!?! Too loud?!?... You gotta go more!" So the 'quote of the week' was: "If it sounds too loud... it's good" OR "if it sounds too loud... make it even louder!"

### "Awakenings"

*Mike Pinnella:* In the never-ending journey to try and create great songs, we, once again, came up with a story-line to help build a mental picture of what the music should

sound like. Certain moods and emotions call for specific musical colors, keys and themes. In this song we have someone who is uncertain about what the future holds, almost desperate to know. The driving rhythm of the verse portrays someone searching for answers, the big sounding chorus is someone crying out - the middle interlude is the struggle everyone faces.

### "The Odyssey"

*Russell Allen:* "Unbelievable"... that's the first thing that came to mind when I heard the opening orchestration Romeo had composed and performed for this monster. The vocal takes in the beginning with the acoustics were the first time in the sessions that I felt that familiar magic. Steve (Evetts) was there in the control room, along with Jay and Mike (Romeo) and I guess the vibe was just there. That was the first thing I sang in that track and it just set the tone for the whole epic. Romeo and myself spent many sleepless nights molding the vocal parts for this epic song. *Michael Romeo:* We knew there was going to be an epic on this album, but it took us a while to come up with the subject material. We were kicking around a few different ideas when Mike L. mentioned the Odyssey, the story of Ulysses. I thought it would be great to approach that from a musical standpoint. The story of Odysseus' journey painted a huge mental picture that, eventually, transformed itself into the music. I sketched out the orchestral sections early on and the rest of the music just fell into place from there. In Part One we are introduced to Odysseus - with the opening horn theme, which develops into a more ominous section - hinting to the treacherous things to come and then ending with the flowing final string melody - as he hopes to reunite with Penelope, his wife. As the song progresses, we follow Odysseus and his encounters with the Cyclops, Circe, and the Sirens. This song has some of my favorite performances by all the guys and is definitely my favorite track. Enjoy!

# Symphony

## THE ODYSSEY

