

PREVIEW SCRIPT – not for performance

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**THE SAGA OF
LEIF ERIKSON**

By Chris Brain and Thomas Simpson
With a story by Tom Barry
Additional music by Lyndon Chen

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CHARACTERS

LEIF, a sailor
THORGUNNA, Leif's wife
TYRKER, Leif's foster-brother
ERIK, Leif's father, King of Greenland
ALVA, one of Erik's servants
BJARNI, a decrepit old explorer
CALDER, a rebellious member of Leif's crew, leader of the MUTINEERS

The LOYAL SAILORS:

HALFDAN, sensible, warm and slightly older than the other sailors
STEN and BRANDT, brothers, practical types with good sense of humour
SIGURD, honest but can be pessimistic
GISLI, father of two

The MUTINEERS:

OSKAR, angry but sharper than the other mutineers
KETIL, brash and unintelligent
ULF, sceptical of everything

A slash between lines by different characters indicates they are sung at the same time (where columns are impractical)

ACT I

SCENE 1, LEIF ERIKSON - AT SEA then BJARNI'S HOVEL

Song 1.1 Leif Erikson (LEIF, BJARNI, TYRKER, CALDER, SAILORS, 8m)

LEIF and his crew of SAILORS are navigating through a rough sea. TYRKER navigates and HALFDAN is at the helm. They sing a boisterous shanty:

SAILORS

Hear the winds roar!
Hear the winds roar!
No sign that it's going to ease.
But still we'll explore
To find a new shore.
Together we'll master the seas.

TYRKER

Time to steer East, Leif!

LEIF

Right you are, Tyrker. Stand by to tack! Man the sheets! Ready about!

SAILORS

Ready!

LEIF

Hard a-port! Loose the jiblines! Mind the heel! Haul taut, haul taut!

TYRKER

Handsomely now.

LEIF

Let her come to, Halfdan!

HALFDAN

Aye!

TYRKER

That's a fine course.

LEIF

Midships now.¹ At ease, all.

TYRKER

Bjarni's dwelling should lie right ahead. I hope he's got something for us.

LEIF

Of course he will! If you'd sighted a new land I think you'd have something to say about it.

CALDER

Who is this Bjarni anyway?

LEIF

A legendary explorer.

OSKAR

As legendary as the last, I'll bet!

TYRKER

He's our best lead so far.

CALDER

You're really scraping the barrel now, ain't you. We've followed rumours of land half way across the oceans and got nothing to show for it.

ULF

It makes you think Erik might be right. Maybe there isn't any land left to find.

KETIL

Aye, if the King says so.

BRANDT

Erik couldn't see land out to the West if it was half a league away.

¹ An explanation of the nautical instructions used:

Tack	Turn across the wind
Sheets	Ropes
Ready about	Warning that they are about to tack
Hard a-port	Turn the tiller fully to port (left) so the boat turns sharply to starboard (right)
Loose the jiblines	Let off the ropes holding the jib (one of the sails)
Haul taut	Pull the jiblines tight (on the opposite side of the ship)
Come to	Bring the ship to a stable course close to the wind
Midships	Stop turning the ship

STEN

Aye, when did we ever listen to him?

HALFDAN

Tell us more, Leif.

LEIF

Rumour has it he got blown off course while on a trading mission -

KETIL

Blown off course? That bodes well!

LEIF

- and sighted land out to the West.

CALDER

What use is it if he's found it already? Thought you wanted new land, not old land!

LEIF

That's the thing: he never landed.

The SAILORS protest.

CALDER

Why wouldn't he land?

TYRKER

We're not sure. But it's been twenty years and no-one's managed to find it since.

CALDER

Twenty years!

ULF

You'd think we'd have heard about it before, wouldn't you?

TYRKER

Let's at least hear what he has to say. *(Pointing)* That's where we're headed!

LEIF

All hands, stand by to lay anchor!

SAILORS

Hear the winds roar!
Hear the winds roar!
No sign that it's going to ease.
But still we'll explore
To find a new shore.
Together we'll master the seas.

The SAILORS arrive at BJARNI's hovel, a squalid dwelling scattered with yellowing maps and rusty navigation instruments, where he is sat in a low chair by a small table. LEIF strides in, followed by the other SAILORS.

LEIF

Bjarni Herjolfsson!

I'm here to finish what you started.
I'm here to hear what you know
Of a voyage that long since departed,
Of a story you told long ago.

I've heard that you sighted a land.
Ever since, no one's managed to reach it.
I'm here to finish what you started.
Bjarni, I intend to complete it.

BJARNI gets up and moves slowly towards LEIF, who holds his ground.

BJARNI

A visitor! Since last one came
A score of years has gone.
But I'm not fooled, I know your aim,
I smell just what you want.

LEIF

Whatever do you mean?

BJARNI

I know who you are from the way you walked in.
Born of a liar, with arrogance bred.
Come to stir up feuds of old with his kin.
Sent by your father, King Erik the Red!

LEIF

I am his son, Leif Erikson,

Pages 9–86 are omitted from this preview

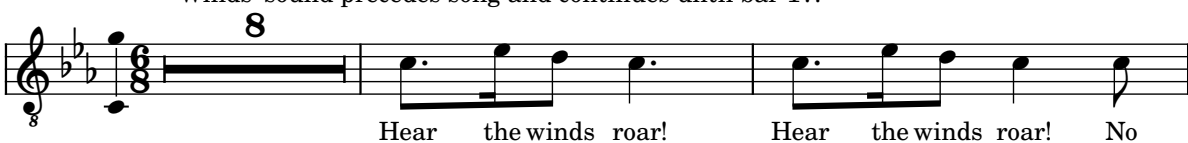
Voice Only

Leif Erikson

$\text{♩} = 66$

'Winds' sound precedes song and continues until bar 17.

Sailors 8



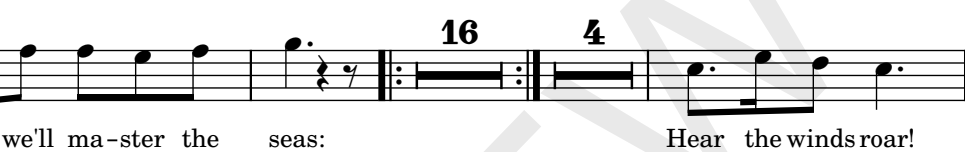
Hear the winds roar! Hear the winds roar! No

Sailors 11




sign that it's go-ing to ease. But still we'll ex-plore to find a new shore. To -

Sailors 15 16 4



ge-ther we'll ma-ster the seas: Hear the winds roar!

Sailors 38



Hear the winds roar! No sign that it's go-ing to ease. But

Leif 41 LEIF
Bjarni Herjolfsson!



still we'll ex-plore to find a new shore. To - ge-ther we'll ma-ster the seas:

Leif 45



f
I'm here to fin-ish what you star-ted. I'm here to hear what you know

Leif 49



Of a vo-yage that long since de-par-ted, Of a sto-ry you told long a-go.

Leif 53



mp
I've heard that you sigh-ted a land. E - ver since, no one's

Leif 56



ff
ma-naged to reach it. I'm here to fin-ish what you star-ted

Pages 88–155 are omitted from this preview

Full orchestration (11): Reed 1, Reed 2, Bassoon/Guitars,
Trumpet, Percussion, Keys 1, Keys 2, Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass

1.1 Leif Erikson

♩ = 68

Tenor Saxophone

Reed 1
Tenor Saxophone *ff*

Reed 2
Flute

Bassoon

Bassoon *ff*

Trumpet in Bb

Percussion

Keys 1
Piano *mf*

Keys 2
String Synthesizer *mf*

To String Synthesizer

Sailors

Violin *ff*

Viola *ff*

Violoncello *ff*

Contrabass *ff*

Hear the winds roar! Hear the winds roar! No sign that it's go-ing to ease. But

A

1.1 Leif Erikson

♩ = 68

The score is for a reduced orchestration of '1.1 Leif Erikson'. It features ten staves. The top five staves (Leif, Bjarni, Tyrker, Sailors, Calder) and the Chorus staff are mostly silent, with some notes appearing in the final measure. The Tenor Saxophone staff has a melodic line starting with a *ff* dynamic. The Piano staff has a complex accompaniment with a *mf* dynamic. The String Synthesiser staff has a harmonic accompaniment with a *mf* dynamic. The Violoncello staff has a melodic line with a *ff* dynamic. The lyrics 'Hear the winds roar!' are written below the Sailors staff in the final measure.

Leif

Bjarni

Tyrker

Sailors

Calder

Chorus

Tenor Saxophone

Piano

String Synthesiser

Violoncello

Hear the winds roar!

ff

mf

mf

ff