

Cottington Woods 2 Player's Guide

Part Two: Skills

11.10 Bards

“Where words fail, music speaks.”
~Hans Christian Andersen

Outlook

Bards are wanderers and collectors of tales. Because they seek those who adventure, they often become adventurers themselves. Because it is unseemly to brag, they tend to downplay their own involvement, giving credit to others, even when that credit isn't due. Bards are generally charismatic, and are often welcomed wherever they go. And where they are not welcomed, a few verses of song or strums of an instrument will open the door.

Like the Priests of the Word, bards collect news from around the world. But bards differ from priests in that, while priests place value in the truth, bards place more value in a well received tale. It is more important to get across the point than to get across every last exacting detail. Sometimes inspiring people and helping them to do good is, in their minds, the right thing to do. It is important to note, though, that bards are not liars. They are entertainers. A common illustration is of a bard and a priest standing side by side with a trove of discovered book, dividing the volumes evenly like loot, with the bard collecting the words of fiction and the priest collecting the words of fact.

Not all bards are true entertainers - bards can be singers or storytellers, writers of poetry or dancers - but are also skilled courtiers, versed in the arts of intrigue and social gatherings.

The greatest of Bards are Troubadours, those whose magic is truly infused, it is said, with a hint of Fairy Magic. Troubadour is a Heroic Header that can be found in the course of play.

A note on Audience trait: Bards are often able, through their performance - whether it be singing, playing an instrument, reciting poetry, telling a tale, giving an inspiring speech, or other means - to affect those who hear them with both beneficial and harmful effects. When a bard is able to perform for an audience who is paying close attention, the Bard can inspire those listeners to become his personal Audience - in doing so, the Bard grants that Audience a particular trait that is unique to the Bard for an encounter. This gives the Bard the ability to cast beneficial magic upon his Audience without also doing so to the enemy his audience may be fighting.

Audience Traits must be given to Plot in advance of the event that the Bard intends to use it, and must be approved by plot. If no trait is approved, the Bard may choose to use the trait, Audience, by default. NPCs, unless working with the PCs, will not use this trait, so PC Bards need not worry about choosing this default trait and having abilities cast to Audience affect enemy NPCs.

More than one Bard may combine their abilities to create a mutual Audience. In this case, the Bards may choose to use the trait of "Audience," use one of the Traits one of the Bards already uses (and has Plot Approval for), or they may choose a new Trait (which must have been approved by Plot prior to the Event).

This Audience Trait will remain until a rest action (fifteen minutes) to refresh encounter skills is taken.

A note on casting requirements: Unless specified otherwise, Bards do not need their hands free to cast their spells/use their abilities (so you could play an instrument if desired). They cannot, however, use any abilities that require a Performance or Incant while **Silenced**, unless the skill explicitly says they can.

A note on Performance: Many Bard skills require a “performance.” A performance can be any kind of verbal or non-verbal performance, including but not limited to: Singing, Reciting Poetry, Playing Musical Instruments, Telling Stories, Stand-Up Comedy, Making Grand Speeches, Dancing, Painting, Miming, Poi-spinning, and other such things (any “spinning” must be done in a safe manner following Accelerant safety rules).

In allowing non-verbal performances, we ask that you obey the spirit of the nature of Performances: they must be obvious and the kind of thing that could draw attention. You cannot, for example, pull out a small notebook and secretly draw a sketch, as it would not empower the skill. But you could set up a large easel and do a dramatic and very public painting. You must perform for *at least* the amount of time required in the skill.

You can use a single performance to power more than one Bardic skill, though you need a natural break in which to cast the first ability before moving on to the next; for example, you could sing a verse, cast a Chord skill, sing the refrain, and then cast another Chord skill, provided the break is natural and the verse and refrain are long enough duration for the skills in question.

If you primarily use non-verbal performances, your skills are still unusable if effected by a Silence effect, as it represents a suppression of the power of Verse.

Performances can not be based primarily on *writing*, however. The Written Word is the province of Priests.

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Bard Skills

Skill: Verse

Character Points: 5,10,15,20

Reset: Encounter

Prerequisite: None

Restriction:

Season: 1 2 3

Max Purchase: 5 6 7

Skill Points: None

Notes: This skill represents the number of special actions a character can take during each encounter. There are different types of Skill, and when a point of Skill is purchased, it is immediately assigned a type. Most characters will only require one, or at most two types of Skill.

The different Skill types are Magic (magicians), Faith (priests of the Word), Craft (witches), Imagination (sandmen), Brain Waves (men of science), Verse (bards) and Endurance (for everyone else).

Skill returns to full when the character is able to rest fully.

The cost of a single point of Skill is determined by the total number purchased, regardless of where the points were assigned after purchase.

Example One: A character purchases a point of Skill for 5 character points and assigns it to Endurance so he can use his strong attack. He is also a magician, so he purchases a second point of Skill and assigns it to Magic. The first point of Magic is still the second point of Skill, and would 10 character points, not 5.

Example Two: A character has the Warrior header and has five Skill Points (costing 5 + 10 + 15 + 20 + 25) which have all been assigned to Endurance, and decides to purchase the Priest Header. His first point of Faith would cost 30 character points.

Resist Inspiration

Character Points: 5

Reset: Twilight

Prerequisite: None

Restriction:

Season: 1 2 3

Max Purchase: 3 4 5

Skill Points: None

Notes: You know how it's done, and therefore know when it's being done to you. You may call "Resist" to any one attack "by Inspiration", "by Illusion," "by Imagination," "by Presence," "by Will" or "by Fear". This skill may be used while unconscious or dead, but not while drained.

But Wait!

Character Points: 15

Reset: Encounter

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction: None

Skill Points: 1 Verse

Notes: You can hold a potential foe at bay for a time with words alone. Gesture at an opponent and call out "By my Gesture, Repel by Presence" and begin talking to the opponent. You can maintain the gesture for as long as you talk to/with the opponent; if you stop talking, or if your conversation ends, you must drop the gesture immediately. You also must drop the gesture and make some final comment to clearly end the conversation before launching any attacks on your opponent, and you cannot advance on your opponent while using this skill. This skill works even on opponents who do not seem to be listening to you or do not understand you; your presence and charisma still have an effect.

You may have two of these skills active at one time (one for each hand), but otherwise cannot use other skills while this active, except to call defenses.

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Desperate But Wait!

Character Points:	5
Reset:	Event
Prerequisite:	But Wait!
Restriction:	
Season:	1 2 3
Max Purchase:	2 4 6
Skill Points:	None

Notes: In times of desperation, a skilled Bard can draw upon his presence to force an enemy away, even when exhausted. This works exactly as the “But Wait!” skill, except that it costs no Verse to use. It is an event skill, and thus can only be used per time bought as a desperate measure. You can hold a potential foe at bay for a time with words alone. Gesture at an opponent and call out “By my Gesture, Repel by Presence” and begin talking to the opponent. You can maintain the gesture for as long as you talk to/with the opponent; if you stop talking, or if your conversation ends, you must drop the gesture immediately. You also must drop the gesture and make some final comment to clearly end the conversation before launching any attacks on your opponent, and you cannot advance on your opponent while using this skill. This skill works even on opponents who do not seem to be listening to you or do not understand you; your presence and charisma still have an effect.

You may have two of these skills active at one time (one for each hand), but otherwise cannot use other skills while this active, except to call defenses.

Speaking in Truce

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Encounter
Prerequisite:	None
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	1 Verse

Notes: If you are actively engaged in a conversation with an NPC that was not actively attacking you before you engaged in conversation (at least 30 seconds must pass from when they last struck you) and they attack you while you are speaking, call “Elude by Etiquette” to the first attack delivered by packet or melee weapon, unless it is called by a Special Trait.

Take A Seat

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Encounter
Prerequisite:	None
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	1 Verse

Notes: If someone is being incredibly rude or not paying attention, you may say sharply to them something like “Take a Seat!” or “Take a Knee and Listen!” then throw a packet at them and call “Slam by Awe.”

Dressed to Impress

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Twilight
Prerequisite:	None
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	None

Notes: You are confident and light on your feet when you are dressed up. As part of your Well Rest, spend time to roleplay dressing, checking yourself in the mirror, or straightening and cleaning yourself up, put on a new outfit or accessory, or something similar. You may then call, "Grant 2 Protection by Presence."

If you become disheveled or filthy, remove your accessories, or otherwise dress down or feel as if you are not looking your best - and the act or decision that caused this deplorable state was one you made freely - then these points are lost. Another character will not cause this; it must be some inelegant act you yourself have made.

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Proper Decorum

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Twilight
Prerequisite:	Resist Inspiration
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Bards are able to keep their heads about them when others would give into raging emotions. You may call "Resist by Presence" to any one Frenzy or "by Madness" or "by Insanity" effect.

Music in the Air

Character Points:	0
Reset:	Instant
Prerequisite:	None
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Whether you are a musician or not, you understand something of how the Mists resonate to music. You can attune a musical focus to the Mists in the place where you dwell such that it fills the air with music to suit your mood. So long as you are present in your cabin, you can use a hidden or disguised music player. You can only play music that uses no obviously out-of-period instruments or musical styles (most symphonic and traditional music is okay); if you are not sure whether music might jar immersion in the game, you can check with staff. You should place the item your character has attuned as a musical focus on display in your cabin near where the music player is hidden, so that anyone setting up music can pretend to be attuning the focus. A musical focus can be anything that can produce music or a tone, from an instrument to a bell, or a crystal or set of crystals. Others can use your musical focus, but you have the final say and control. However, it is not impossible that some plot effects or characters may cause your musical focus to behave in unexpected ways.

Men of Science are able to build a music box that Bards can attune to their musical focus. If a Bard has this Musical Box, he can enable it to play his musical focus even when he is not present in the room.

In Song & Story

Character Points:	15
Reset:	Between events
Prerequisite:	Bard Header
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	This is a bardic info skill. You are well versed in the stories, songs, legends, folklore, poetry, and oral traditions of The Written World, and what you don't already know, you can find out from your fellow bards. You may use this skill passively or actively. You will receive plot-chosen snippets of stories & the like in your character envelope at check in next event which may contain relevant plot information. (Sometimes we may use other delivery methods, such as an NPC visit, to give you your info.)

Gossip & Rumors

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Between Event
Prerequisite:	None
Restriction:	None
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Bards have a wide network of social contacts, and their business is both the spreading of information and the hearing of gossip, whether in the great families of the House Courts and high-end establishments or on the streets, bars, and less savory places of society. These connections also give the Bard some degree of influence, that they can sometimes use to their advantage in small ways. This is a Between Events action skill, and you may use it in one of two ways actively, or receive rumors if used passively:

* **GOSSIP:** You can spread and disseminate rumors, stories, or anecdotes — true or false, slanderous or laudatory. In your PEL after each event, you can tell staff one thing you would like to "put out" and spread around.

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But beware — there is no guarantee that all who hear your rumor will believe it, and it is likely that any interested parties can trace it back to its source.

Note: You MUST submit your use for this skill by the PEL deadline of two weeks after the event in order for it to have an effect. The effect may not always be immediately obvious, but it is guaranteed to have some appropriate effect. This is an Active between-events skill use.

*** HEAR RUMORS: This is the same as the Hear Rumors skill, except that you may use it actively to try to find out what the rumors and gossip are about a particular subject.**

If Gossip & Rumors is used passively, Plot will provide relevant rumors or gossip in your check-in folder that you may hear on the streets, in the Woods, or in the Courts.

On rare occasion, this skill may have an effect during an event.

If no active use is submitted by the deadline, we will assume that you wish to submit the skill passively and provide rumors at the start of game.

Characters with this skill who use it passively should expect to receive the same information; though at times there may be exceptions, players should expect to receive the same rumors as other characters with this or the Hear Rumors skill.

Social Influence

Character Points: 10

Reset: Between Event

Prerequisite: None

Restriction: None

Skill Points: None

Notes: Bards have a wide network of social contacts, and these connections also give the Bard some degree of influence, that they can sometimes use to their advantage in small ways. This is a Between Events action skill, and may only be used actively.

You can attempt to exert some influence, in the following ways.

* To smooth over a possible insult, offense, or misunderstanding (caused by you or a friend)

* To try to arrange an invitation for you or a friend to a certain event, gathering, or social group. This is not the Invitation skill. You cannot use this as an attempt to invite someone to Cottington Woods, or to arrange a meeting with an individual. This is intended to be, for example, a means to ensure you get invited to the King's Ball.

* To attempt to arrange an introduction for a friend. Note that it must be reasonable for your character to arrange this introduction.

* To spread the word about and raise the perceived status of a social event you or a friend are hosting

* To attempt to encourage/invite/attract appropriate suitors for your hand or that of a friend, or affect the chances of a given possible match.

* To influence the arts and/or what is perceived as "fashionable" (You cannot use this to spread rumors, info or tales, but if using Gossip or other such skill, you can use this to increase the effect of Influence.)

* You can at times use this to attempt the influence the general opinion or viewpoint of groups of individuals within the Woods or where you are living. Note that this is *general* - you could, for example, try to use this to increase hostilities towards wolves, but would be unlikely in succeeding to use this to make the Woodlanders turn against the king. This use is more difficult, and may not always work as expected.

There is no guarantee whatsoever that your attempt will be successful, and it may even backfire if you reach too far or push too hard. In your PEL, you should provide as much detail as possible on how you hope to achieve this effect (what contacts you will be using, where you are focusing your attempts, how subtle you are trying to be, etc). The more modest and detailed your proposal is (and the more cool, interesting, and likely to bring results that will be fun for everyone), the likelier it is to work. While we generally appreciate creativity in the campaign, you cannot use this skill in ways other than the ones described above — it is not all-purpose influence. Your skill will have some degree of effect, though it may not get you the result you were hoping for, and is unlikely to go over poorly unless you make a clear gaffe. You may not see immediate results of your efforts, but we will do our best to show you any results as soon as it makes sense for them to occur in game.

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Invitation

Character Points: 15

Reset: Between events

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction: None

Skill Points: None

Notes: Your influence and reputation are great enough that when you invite someone to visit or attend a social gathering, it is likely that they will come, or at least receive some kind of response. You may request to meet with an NPC character. You should be reasonably certain that your connections are good enough that you will receive some kind of response. The response of the invited individual will be appropriate to your relationship and the manner of your invitation. Include the IG text of your invitation in your PEL.

It is expected that appropriate hospitality be provided. You should also only use this skill on an NPC that you have a reasonable chance of inviting or know how to contact. The King of Farroway, for instance, is unlikely to stop by for tea, and sending an invitation to the Queen of the Faeries may prove more difficult unless you've bartered with a fairy to do it for you.

Use of this skill does not guarantee that the invitee will appear, only that they are aware that you have sent an invitation. You will usually get some form of response (such as a letter or a representative). Bear in mind that the response they send will be one that is appropriate for your relative stations, current relationship, and the manner of your invitation.

You do not need this skill to attempt to invite an NPC, but no response is guaranteed without use of this skill.

In some cases, you may not get a response at the next event (say, if the person playing the NPC is unavailable); if that occurs, you are free to use the skill again after the new event without "replacing" your old use. We will respond to both as soon as possible.

Soliloquy

Character Points: 5

Reset: Instant

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction: None

Skill Points: None

Notes: When at 0 Hit Points, Unstable, or struck with a Death Effect, you may remain conscious for up to 10 seconds to deliver one last final line before falling back unconscious or dying. You cannot do anything other than speak in a quiet voice. This skill cannot be used when Stunned, Paralyzed, or otherwise incapacitated.

Hindsight

Character Points: 10

Reset: Between Event

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction: None

Skill Points: None

Notes: Scholars and Bards excel at remembering the details of things that have happened. Between events, you may request clarification on the details of an encounter you experienced during the previous event. You must give as much detail as you can (to help us recall the event clearly, ourselves). Examples of how to use this could be to remember what an NPC actually said, or details of the encounter you may have forgotten. You can use this for clarity if multiple PCs remember the same event differently. Use of this skill does not count towards your limit of Between Event Info Skills.

Bringing Music to the Hearth

Character Points: 10

Reset: Twilight

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction: None

Skill Points: None

Notes: If you give a performance of some kind (singing, playing music, telling a story, giving an inspiring speech, reading poetry, etc.) that lasts at least three minutes where a Hearth Witch has established a

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Hearth, you may choose to call out one of the following if you receive some kind of applause or positive acknowledgement of your performance:

"To the Room, Grant Protection by Inspiration"

"To the Room, Grant Defense Shield Fear by Inspiration"

"To the Room, Expose Illusion by Inspiration"

"To the Room, Cure <<Mental Trait>> by Inspiration" (where Mental Trait is any Mental trait defined in Core rules, such as: Awe, Confusion, Despair, Fear, Gloom, Inspiration, Madness, Trance, Will. You may also use this to cure Imagination or Illusion.)

Audience

Character Points: 15

Reset: Encounter

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction:

Skill Points: 1 Verse

Notes: When a bard is able to perform for an audience who is paying close attention, the Bard can inspire those listeners to become his personal Audience - in doing so, the Bard grants that Audience a particular trait that is unique to the Bard for an encounter. This gives the Bard the ability to cast beneficial magic upon his Audience without also doing so to the enemy his audience may be fighting.

Spend 60+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then touch up to six individuals who were listening or watching the performance with a packet and call, "Encounter Imbue <<Audience Trait>> Trait by Inspiration." You also gain this Trait. This Audience Trait will remain until a rest action to refresh encounter skills is taken.

The trait name must be approved in advance by plot. The trait "Audience" may be used. Note that NPC bards, unless working with PC bards, will not use the "Audience" trait (so enemies will not be able to benefit from abilities cast to this trait).

Greater Audience

Character Points: 10

Reset: Twilight

Prerequisite: Audience

Restriction:

Season: 1 2 3

Max Purchase: 2 3 4

Skill Points: None

Notes: As the Audience skill, but you may combine your performance with one or more other Bards to create a larger circle. You both must possess this skill, and both must expend a point of verse and participate in the performance. You cannot use this skill as a solo performance. At the end of the performance, call, "By my voice, Encounter Imbue <<Audience Trait>> Trait by Inspiration." The cooperating bards must agree on the trait name used, and each also gains the trait. This Audience Trait will remain until a rest action to refresh encounter skills is taken.

The trait name must be approved in advance by plot. The trait "Audience" may be used. Note that NPC bards, unless working with PC bards, will not use the "Audience" trait (so enemies will not be able to benefit from abilities cast to this trait).

NOTE: Anyone who hears this call will gain the trait. Be careful in using this in situations where your enemy may hear you, as they too will become part of your audience.

Inspiring Performance

Character Points: 5

Reset: Twilight

Prerequisite: Bard header

Restriction:

Season: 1 2 3

Max Purchase: 3 4 5

Skill Points: None

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Notes: Your music has the power to inspire others, though at some cost to yourself. Spend thirty seconds giving an inspiring performance or speech to an individual. At the end of which, touch them with a packet and call, "Refresh 1 Skill Point by Inspiration and Short Agony to Self" where Skill point is one of Endurance/Craft/Magic/Imagination/etc. You must take the effect of the Agony, and cannot use a Resist, Shield, or other effect against it, but it can be Purged or Cured after taking it.

You cannot use this skill on yourself.

Greater Inspiring Performance

Character Points: 10
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Inspiring Performance
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 1 2 3
Skill Points: None

Notes: Your music can give inspiration to those who are in your audience, though the cost to you is dear. Spend 10 seconds giving an inspiring performance or speech, at the end of which, call, "By my voice, Refresh 1 Skill Point to <<Audience Trait>> by Inspiration". You then take a Short Drain. You must take the effect of the Drain, and cannot use a Resist, Shield, or other effect against it, but it can be Purged or Cured after taking it.

You also take the effect of the Refresh.

Inspired Protection

Character Points: 10
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Audience
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 5 6 7
Skill Points: None

Notes: Spend 60+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Grant Extra 1 Protection by Inspiration" or "By My Voice, Grant Extra 2 Protection to <<Audience-Trait>> by Inspiration"

Inspired Courage

Character Points: 10
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Audience
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 5 6 7
Skill Points: None

Notes: Spend 60+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call out "By My Voice, Grant Extra Defense Resist Fear by Inspiration." You may choose to add "to <<Audience-Trait>>" to the call.

Inspired Healing

Character Points: 10
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Audience
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 3 4 5
Skill Points: None

Notes: Spend 20+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call out "By My Voice, Heal 1 to <<Audience-Trait>> by Inspiration."

You may instead choose to spend 30+ seconds performing and call out, "By My Voice, Heal 1 by Inspiration."

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Inspired Cure Will

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Twilight
Prerequisite:	Audience
Restriction:	
Season:	1 2 3
Max Purchase:	2 3 4
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Spend 20+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call out "By My Voice, Cure Will to <<Audience-Trait>> by Inspiration"
	You may instead choose to spend 30+ seconds performing and call out, "By My Voice, Cure Will by Inspiration."

Inspired Mind

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Twilight
Prerequisite:	Song of Protection and Inspired Cure Will
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Spend 30+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then touch a packet and call "Grant Defense by Inspiration, Shield X by Inspiration" where X is one of Awe, Confusion, Despair, Fear, Gloom, Illusion, Imagination, Inspiration, Presence, Trance or Will. You may choose to immediately (within 10 seconds) continue or begin again your performance for another 30 seconds and cast, "Grant Extra Defense to <<Audience Trait>> by Inspiration, Shield X by Inspiration." (In other words, you can do a second casting, but only to someone with the Audience Trait.)

Invoke Fear

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Twilight
Prerequisite:	Bard header
Restriction:	
Season:	1 2 3
Max Purchase:	2 3 4
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Spend 20 seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Agony by Fear". You do not take this effect.

Invoke Harm

Character Points:	10
Reset:	Event
Prerequisite:	Bard header
Restriction:	
Season:	1 2 3
Max Purchase:	3 4 5
Skill Points:	None
Notes:	Spend 30 seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, 2 Damage by Fear". You do not take this effect.

Invoke Frenzy

Character Points:	15
Reset:	Event
Prerequisite:	Bard header
Restriction:	
Season:	1 2 3
Max Purchase:	1 2 3
Skill Points:	None

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Notes: Spend 30 seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Short Frenzy by Fear". You do not take this effect.

Courageous Song

Character Points: 15
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction: None
Skill Points: 1 verse
Notes: Spend 20+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Cure Fear by Inspiration" or "By My Voice, Cure Fear by Inspiration to <<Audience Trait>>"

Stabilizing Song

Character Points: 10
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction: none
Skill Points: 1 verse
Notes: Spend 10+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Stabilize by Inspiration" or "By My Voice, Stabilize by Inspiration to <<Audience Trait>>"

Song of Peace

Character Points: 10
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction: None
Skill Points: None
Notes: Spend 10+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Cure Frenzy by Inspiration." You may choose to use "to <<Audience-Trait>>" if desired.

Song of Hope

Character Points: 10
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction: none
Skill Points: 1 verse
Notes: Spend 20+ seconds performing and/or inspiring, then call "By My Voice, Cure Despair by Inspiration." You may choose to use "to <Audience-Trait>" if desired.

Song of Lifekeeping

Character Points: 10
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Stabilizing Song
Restriction: None
Skill Points: None
Notes: You can so enchant the spirit of the dead with your singing that their spirit will choose to remain with their body rather than departing. Touch a packet to the target and call "Imbue by Life Keeping" or, if they are unreachable, call "By Your Name, <NAME>, Imbue by Life Keeping." You must then sing, recite poetry, tell a tale, play an instrument, or otherwise entertain the one who has died. You must remain within sight of the individual you are lifekeeping, though you may be across the room, or even outside the area looking in, as long as you can still see them. So long as you keep entertaining them, their 5-minute death count will stop wherever it left off. You may hold a spirit this way for as long as you keep entertaining, or until an hour has passed.

Chord of Pain

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Character Points: 10
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction: None
Skill Points: 1 verse
Notes: Say an incant of 10+ syllables, then throw a packet and call "Agony by Inspiration"

Chord of Weakness

Character Points: 10
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Chord of Pain
Restriction: None
Skill Points: 1 verse
Notes: Say an incant of 10+ syllables, then throw a packet and call "Weakness by Inspiration"

Chord of Silence

Character Points: 15
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 2 3 4
Skill Points: None
Notes: Say an incant of 10+ syllables, then throw a packet and call "Silence by Inspiration"

Chord of Anger

Character Points: 15
Reset: Twilight
Prerequisite: Bard header
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 2 3 4
Skill Points: None
Notes: Your words can drive another to reckless anger. Make a challenging, angry or insulting remark, and then call "By Your Name, <Name>, Fenzy by Will" or "By My Gaze, Frenzy By Will."

Please make certain any insulting remark is entirely in-game and does not use any language that may be misconstrued as an out of game insult.

Chord of Harm

Character Points: 15
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Skill Points: 1 Verse
Notes: Say an incant of 10+ syllables that express despair or lasting harm, then throw a packet and call "2 Damage by Despair."

Chord of Restoration

Character Points: 15
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Skill Points: 1 Verse
Notes: Say an incant of 10+ syllables, then throw a packet and call "Cure Silence / Weakness / Drain / Stricken by Inspiration"

Chord of Lullaby

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Part Two: Skills

Character Points: 15
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Chord of Silence
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 2 3 4
Skill Points: None
Notes: Your lullabies can bring any into slumber. Say a relevant incant for 10 seconds, then throw a packet for "Stun by Inspiration."

Targeted Chord

Character Points: 15
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Any Chord skill
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 2 3 4
Skill Points: None
Notes: Once per event, you may choose to deliver any of your "Chord of <X>" Skills as a By My Gesture or a By Your Name. If used on Chords with Attack Effects, you must already have the attention of the target to do this, and may not hold the Chord for longer than 1 minute for effects that normally last 10 seconds, or 5 minutes for effects that last 5 minutes. For Beneficial effects, you may only call as "By Your Name" and they do not require you to have the target's attention.

Break Trance

Character Points: 10
Reset: Encounter
Prerequisite: Bard header
Skill Points: None
Notes: You are able to free those who in a trance or deeply fascinated with something. Roleplay for 3 seconds to snap them out of it, and then touch a packet to the recipient and call "Cure Trance/Fascination by Inspiration." This does not require Verse to use, just 10 seconds of roleplay. You may use this while Silenced, but you must roleplay slapping or shaking them out of their trance.

Entrancing Song

Character Points: 15
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: But Wait!
Restriction:
 Season: 1 2 3
 Max Purchase: 3 4 5
Skill Points: 1 Verse
Notes: Talk, perform, sing, etc. at a target while pointing at them and say "By My Gesture, Root by Fascination." As long as you remain talking/performing and maintain the gesture, the target will remain rooted. You cannot maintain this gesture for more than five minutes at a time, though if you have more than one casting of this spell, you may immediately attempt to use a second casting when the first expires.
 You may have two of these skills active at one time (one for each hand), but otherwise cannot use other skills while this active, except to call defenses or to begin a deathstrike (once the deathstrike is begun, this skill must end).
 You may also choose to say an incant of 10+ syllables and throw a packet for "Root by Trance."

Siren Song

Character Points: 20
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Entrancing Song
Restriction:

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Part Two: Skills

Season: 1 2 3
Max Purchase: 1 2 3
Skill Points: 1 Verse
Notes: Talk, perform, sing, etc. at a target while pointing at them and say "By My Gesture, Paralyze by Fascination." As long as you remain talking/performing and maintain the gesture, the target will remain paralyzed. You must drop the gesture if your target takes (or begins to take) any harmful effect (including a deathstrike). You cannot maintain this gesture for more than five minutes at a time, though if you have more than one casting you may immediately attempt to use a second casting when the first expires.
You may have two of these skills active at one time (one for each hand), but otherwise cannot use other skills while this active, except to call defenses or to begin a deathstrike (once the deathstrike is begun, this skill must end).
You may also choose to say an incant of 10+ syllables and throw a packet for "Paralyze by Trance."

Shared Song of Greater Inspired Healing

Character Points: 10
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Greater Audience, Inspired Healing
Restriction:
Season: 1 2 3
Max Purchase: 1 1 1
Skill Points: None
Notes: Once an event, a minimum of two Bards with this ability may combine their performance of Inspired Healing in order to deliver greater inspired healing. Spend 30 seconds performing together, and then collectively call, "By My Voice, Heal X by Inspiration to <<Audience Trait>>" where X is the number of Bards using this skill together + 1. For example, if three Bards have this skill, they may perform together and then call "By My Voice, Heal 4 by Inspiration to <<Audience Trait.>>"

Note of Silence

Character Points: 15
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Chord of Silence
Restriction:
Season: 1 2 3
Max Purchase: 2 3 4
Skill Points: None
Notes: Gesture at an opponent and call "By My Gesture, Silence by Presence." The opponent remains silenced as long as you maintain the gesture. You must drop the gesture after approximately five minutes, as the magic cannot be maintained for longer than that time.
You may have two of these skills active at one time (one for each hand), but otherwise cannot use other skills while this active, except to call defenses.

The Sound of Silence

Character Points: 15
Reset: Event
Prerequisite: Chord of Silence
Restriction:
Season: 1 2 3
Max Purchase: 1 1 1
Skill Points: None
Notes: Once per event, you may call upon the Sound of Silence to quiet all about you, so that you may deliver a speech, sing a song, or reflect a moment. You are affected by this, such that you cannot use any skills that require an incant and/or cannot be used under a Silence, but you MAY still speak, sing, or otherwise use your voice. Make some kind of entreaty for silence, and then call "By My Voice, Short Silence by Fascination."