

## The Opalite Orchestra (Ajaunti)

A powerful cadence echoes over the shores of the Crescent Isles. Shrieking cries from chimes and triangles mark the never-ending pilgrimage of the Opalite Orchestra. With mournful songs for the dead, their chilling symphony wrenches even the coldest hearts with the warmth of reverence. All things taken before their time are honored by the soothing refrain of their ancient instruments.

Long ago, exiles of the Clan of Crests landed on the Crescent Isle coasts. It is said that they lived in harmony with the sirens of the Verlit Sea, and were taught music by the merfolk in exchange for the secrets of their shipcraft. Rather than ships however, instruments were built; and encrusted with the finest opals to hold mighty magics to pass down from generation to generation.



As senescence silently struck the new clan of exiles one fateful night, the newly formed clan of Opals were nearly wiped out. Abandoned by their ancestors, and now cursed with the burden to continue the legacy of their people—the remaining Aja struck a pact with a mysterious entity to preserve them in their time of need. Their Mother, and her line are marked by opalescent white eyes, and with their gifts of precognition they avoid violence with prophetic guidance. Unfortunately, those blessed with precognition are karmically taxed in nightmares. These horrific visions can turn genius into madness while they sleep, and thus they rest in inscribed bandage-covered tents to allay a premature demise.

Instruments are very important to The Orchestra, and are passed down every generation. Bedazzled with opals, these instruments are their most treasured keepsakes. The constant tender love and care for these relics have preserved the sacred relics of their forebears, and one day they hope to rediscover what was lost with time.

To this day, the Opalite Orchestra roam the isles cleansing vestigial misdeeds from manifesting to repent for their past transgressions. As pacifists, they gently maneuver around any harm that might come their way. Finding the roaming band is near impossible without their prior consent.

Once they reach their destination, the land and spirits are coaxed and soothed into a gentle repose by playing chilling, mournful music at the haunted locales. Afterwards they will try to glean fragments of

their history from each site they visit, and hope to one day lay to rest the mysteries tied to their abandonment.

The clan's fashion is dictated by their seaborne roots. They are dressed in scarves, nets and veils atop their normal travelers clothing. Pearls normally are used as jewelry and ornamentation. Blue, brown, black, white and yellow are preferred colors. Red is forbidden except during funerals.

One's status is denoted by the number of pearl embellishments on their clothing. Those with the blood and gifts of the mother are permitted to wear pearls on their veils, and symbolize the need for a proper sanctum before rest.

When cast out to "find their roots", a harmless but meaningful curse manifests in the blackening of the exile's pearls. Black pearls symbolize disgrace, and rarely in cases of clan betrayal each red pearl a life taken from kin.

#### Roleplay Tips:

- Members of the Orchestra are all familiar with instrumental music in some variety. For hidden reasons, they strictly do not sing during their performances.
- The insignia of the Orchestra is that of a clam shell behind a three-tipped candelabra, holding candles burning a white, black and red flame.
- Beyond music, this clan of aja love diving, surfing and net fishing. Oftentimes they keep sea critters as pets.
- Family, exile and history are all very important aspects to an Opaline Ajaunti. Be sure to flesh out the reasons for your adventuring, and decide on what drives your character.