

Whistler Sisters



Umberto Dinklaker's tone poem "El Erizo Angustiado—or The Anguished Hedgehog—calls for an unusually large battery of percussion instruments. The "hedgehog in estrus" motif, for example, is played by a quartet of Acme Siren Whistles. Professional Acme Siren Whistlers are rare enough, so to find four of them at one time can be quite the challenge. Luckily, the Fabulous McGillicuddy Sisters answered their inner musical callings by majoring in siren whistles at the Pringler Academy of Music and Liniments. Although they were certainly competent, the sisters were not what one might term virtuosi. When they played in unison, for example, they often encroached into the domain of parallel seconds. Happily, this was just what El Erizo Angustiado needed to set it apart from other hedgehog-themed compositions of the day!