

# Minstrels

Minstrels, for reasons known only to themselves, have no wish to become members of the Bards Council. Instead, although overseen by the Bards Council, they are more free agents wielding some minor bardic powers. Although the root profession is the same in many ways, there are 3 sub-classes of Minstrel, which tend to be very different.

## **Songsmiths (Max 2 in play)**

These 'lesser bards' compose and execute the common folk tales of the time. Many of their works will contain information and news about wars and heroes. They are the people who will entertain a tavern all night, and then leave those behind with important thoughts and decisions. Songsmiths are not fighters, but instead play their part through stirring recitals. They will often be seen in war camps prior to an engagement (although it is unlikely they will remain for the battle). Songsmiths tend to be loners, but they have the most contact with the Council and its representatives. Songsmiths will often accompany Bards on missions.

## **Warrior Poets (Max 3 in play)**

These are the most warrior-like of the three minstrel sub-classes. They are to be found amongst the barbarian races, or half-elves and the like. They are perhaps the most dedicated of the three divisions for the use of direct confrontation with the Enemy. They are also great sympathisers and will often be found in 'just' rebellions. Garda has spawned more than a few Warrior Poets in the last few decades. To summarise, it is probably best to see the Warrior Poet as a fighter with a large heart and a sentimental view of justice and the 'good fight'.

## **Messengers (Max 1 in play)**

Messengers serve in essence as a sort of secret service for the Bards Council. They are not merely errand runners, but also spies and information retrieval masters. Many of the skills learnt by Messengers are scout and even spy related, and Messengers will often serve in a scouting capacity when carrying out missions.

As a final note, there is a seventh Minstrel allowed once the six allocated Minstrel characters are in play. This may be of any of the three sub types, and does not count towards the maximum numbers for each type.