

"Whispers of a Gentle Wind" (2011) — for Banhu, Sheng, Pipa and Guzheng

Banhu: Hu Yu Sheng: Dong Ying
Pipa: Ian Weiwei Guzheng: Song Xinai

The title comes from the poem of Zheng Banqiao "Mo Zhu Tu", the whole piece expresses the "natural" in personalized language, which is the core of traditional Chinese art. The structure is divided into four parts, mostly adopting a more flexible tempo and free layout. It's natural and free, showing the unique Chinese characteristics of music improvisation. The whole piece is a total of 127 sub-sections, each section is a separate audio moment: the process fills with the continuous production of new sound, therefore duplication technology is seldom used in this work, even if repetitive material appears occasionally, it's variations or the transformational form.

Commenting on the conception of this piece, Jia said: "Every time the composer writing a piece will experience the process that thinking about 'tradition': the tradition of musical instrument, the tradition of musical language, the tradition of music style and the tradition of syntactic structure, etc. Contemporary music composition cannot be completed without the consciously thought on 'traditional'; otherwise, the 'new' music that relative to traditional one could not be created then. At the same time, the composer has to give a reflection in face of the current situation on music as well. How to make your own music different? How to absorb the useful experience from others? How to define your music style? How to achieve the goals? If it's lack of thinking in this respect, the personality of composer's is out of the question." In an interview with

Sikorski music publishing, Jia Guoping said "The piece for four Chinese musical instruments 'Whispers of a Gentle Wind' reflects basically my personal characteristics. I've found a processing method of musical sound, which is ever-changing and with open space, showing the aesthetic pursuit of Chinese traditional art, that is the actual and virtual situation of music language, tempo changes, and instantly transformation and flow characteristics of tone color."

The 2012 Annual Report On The Development Of Chinese Music Art made an objective assessment to this work: "In the field of composition, having went through the time of tradition and modern, the largest collision and merging of China and world, Chinese contemporary composers have begun to 'find themselves', and obtained a new round of spiraling of integration and regression on the basis of 'self-centered' Jia's Chinese national chamber music 'Whispers of a Gentle Wind' (for Pipa, Sheng, Banhu and Sheng) is right a representation of this not only flowing with the unique aesthetic taste of Chinese, but also achieved the deeply fusion of Chinese traditional music, western contemporary music techniques, and modern aesthetic tendency."

This piece premiered at "Ensemble Contempo Beijing Concert" on 14th, May, 2011, in Beijing Concert Hall.



清風
Whispers of
a Gentle
Wind

JIA GUOPING

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