

Flute Music by Asian Contemporary Composers

Presented by Yuh-Jiun Melody Wan

Yang Yuhuan for a Flute Player/Narrator

Jingchao Wang

Yang Yuhuan, one of the Four Beauties in ancient China and the favorite empress of the Emperor Tang Xuanzong, was executed by Tang Xuanzong in Maweiyi because it was believed that her beauty was a curse to the Tang Dynasty. There are many versions regarding how she died, but no one knows which is accurate; the most common version is that her husband executed her. Her life seemed so perfect to the outside world, but inside she was desolated.

This is a piece that shows the great and miserable life of Yang Yuhuan. There are recited sections which use a poem by Li Bai that describe how beautiful and impressive Yang Yuhuan was.

Recited Part Translation:

清平调

Song of Purity and Peace

李白

Li Bai

云想衣裳花想容，

Clouds, one thinks of her clothes; flowers, one thinks of her countenance;

春风拂槛露华浓。

The spring wind sweeps dew from the balustrade, splendid and dense.

若非群玉山头见，

If not seen at the peak of the Jade Mountain,

会向瑶台月下逢。

Then she will be encountered under the moon on the gemstone terrace.

2020 for Flute and Clarinet

Janghyun Thomas Kim

'2020' is a duet for flute and clarinet. In 2020, many tragic events happened; as a composer, I wanted to preserve the events and perceptions of 2020 through my music. This is a six-movement work, with each movement depicting the events chronologically that took place in the world:

- I. Wildfire
- II. COVID19
- III. Beirut
- IV. Hymn for Civil Rights
- V. COVID19
- VI. El Niño/La Niña

This piece was written for the Vermillion duet and is dedicated to Yuh-Jiun Melody Wan.

More about the Vermillion Duet:

www.vermillionduet.com

More about the composer:

www.janghyunthomaskimmusic.com