Light and Soul

for orchestra

by

Lan-chee LAM

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Graduate Department of Music
University of Toronto

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Abstract

The lotus is a divine symbol in Asian traditions representing virtues of purity and non-attachment. "Light and Soul," is a work for orchestra with a duration of thirteen minutes, uses the growth of the lotus as a model for formal construction and musical development. The roots of a lotus are in the mud, the stem grows up through the water, basking in the sunlight. This pattern of growth signifies the progress of the soul from the primeval mud of materialism, through the waters of experience, and into the bright sunshine of enlightenment. In Buddhism, the heart of the human being is like an unopened lotus. When the virtues of the Buddha develop therein, the lotus blossoms, and that is why the Buddha sits on a lotus bloom. Confucian scholar Zhou Dunyi's short essay, "On the Love of the Lotus," points out there are many lovable flowers of grasses and trees both upon the water and on the land. In the Jin Dynasty, Tao Yuanming loved only the chrysanthemum. Since the Tang Dynasty, people of the world have loved the peony very much. However, Zhou Dunyi especially loves the lotus because while growing from the mud, it is unstained. Then he further lists out the reasons that he loves the lotus and comments that the lotus is a gentleman among the chrysanthemum and peony. The musical means of conveying this spiritual metaphor of the lotus in "Light and Soul" are primarily timbral, although there is a rigorous application of intervalic and scalar development in the music which gives it consistency and a sense of unfolding over the length of its duration.
Contents

Instrumentation iv

Light and Soul 1
Instrumentation

2 Flutes (2nd doubling Piccolo)

2 Oboes (2nd doubling English Horn)

2 Clarinets in Bb (2nd doubling Bass Clarinet)

2 Bassoons (2nd doubling Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in C

2 Tenor Trombones

1 Bass Trombone

1 Tuba

1 Timpani

Percussion 1: Crotales, Vibraphone, Tam-tam (Large), Rainstick, Whistle, Bass drum.

Percussion 2: Tubular bells, Glockenspiel, Suspended cymbal, Flexatone, Tenor drum, 5 Tom-toms, Chinese cymbals, Tam-tam (Large).

1 Harp

Violins I

Violins II

Violas

Cellos

Double Basses
Misterioso \( \frac{3}{4} = 52 \)
Light and Soul
Piu Mosso  \( \text{\textbullet}\text{\textbullet}\text{\textbullet} = 80 \)
Light and Soul
Light and Soul

2+3+3
2\textsuperscript{+3}+3
16
16
H
2\textsuperscript{+3}+3
5
8
2\textsuperscript{+3}+3
16

 Allegro Grazioso \( \frac{3}{4} = 96 \)
Light and Soul
Meno Mosso $\frac{\text{b}}{\text{d}} = 60$
Light and Soul

Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Br. Cl. 1, 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hn. 1, 2
Hn. 3, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
T. Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Temp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Hp.
Vln. 1
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.
Light and Soul