
SHIH-WEI LO

PERSONA

人格面具 (2018-19)

FOR LARGE ORCHESTRA

為大型管弦樂

PROGRAM NOTE

The roles a person plays inevitably increase with age, and each requires a different approach in order to fulfill the expectation or purpose. This is what Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung called “Persona” — the mask that individuals choose to put on, portraying a certain image according to the particular socio-cultural environment they are surrounded by and attempting to comply with the norm. It is perhaps reasonable to argue that the employment of persona may also represent a form of camouflage, a means of concealing one’s true identity.

Much emphasis has been placed upon the dynamic and/or contact between individuals when the materialization of persona(s) is present, but equally important is the understanding of how multiple personas exercise their power when coexisting in a single being, which, given the rapidly changing patterns as well as complex human interactions nowadays, seems worth investigating. Therefore, it was my naïve hope to utilize music — the language lacking semantics — to characterize and comprehend such an entangling, fascinating phenomenon in this composition for large orchestra.

Embodied gesturally in the music, numerous personas overlap, juxtapose, or interlock with each other, forming unpredictable combinations one after another. Some persona(s) may last longer than others, but all of them are brought together to construct an entity that, while resembling a kaleidoscope perceptually, truly strives to query the concept/necessity of unity, something that has been occupying composers’ mind for centuries. Perhaps we should consider the possibility that unity is a wishful thinking that only exists in never-never land, and embrace the chaotic reality of our time, seeking the mechanism of enantiomerism that regulates and hopefully restores the balance.

Scored in C

Approximate Duration: 20 minutes

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