

Summer solstice 夏至

for Marimba solo

Kaiyi Kao

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夏至 (馬林巴琴獨奏曲)

夏至，是最早被確立的一個節氣，為中國二十四節氣排序中的第十個節氣，在國曆每年 6 月 20-22 日之間。西元前 7 世紀，古人用圭表測量日影，並將日影長度變化作為季節測定、四季劃分和曆法推算的依據。夏至這一天，太陽直射北回歸線，日影最短，北半球白晝最長，黑夜最短，太陽輻射到地面的能量聚集，普遍氣溫值甚高；「至」，同時也有極點、極致的意思，因此把這一天稱作夏至。

早期，無論東方的夏至節，亦或西方的仲夏節，夏至均為一年裡重要的傳統節日和節氣之一。雖然現今中華文化的傳統節慶活動中，相對來說，較少與夏至有直接相關聯性，儘管如此，夏至仍不失其時節該有的特性，也因此，在作曲家的節氣系列獨奏作品創作構想，特別將「夏至」列入其中。

作品「夏至」，由三個樂章組成，為節氣主題創作之獨奏系列作品之一，創作概念同樣來自中國二十四節氣。此作品充分運用馬林巴琴的特性，兼具多種樂器功能的組合，擁有廣泛的音域，醇厚悠揚且柔和帶有天鵝絨般的音色，加上其多變的演奏技巧，繪聲繪影地，於三個不同的樂章，分別描繪演奏出人們因燠熱而致的慵懶和煩躁，夏至時節的雨季和氣候轉換，以及台灣早期夏季孩兒的民俗遊戲-鬥蟋蟀等情境，感受夏日炎炎、長夏漫漫的種種景象。

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A year is divided into 24 solar terms in the traditional East Asian calendar. The summer solstice, also known as estival solstice or midsummer, is the earliest established solar term, and it is also the 10th solar term in the ranking of the 24 solar terms. In the Gregorian calendar, it usually occurs between 20th and 22th June in the Northern Hemisphere. In the 7th century BC, the ancients used the change in the length of the shadow of the sun as the basis for determining the seasons, dividing the four seasons, and calculating the calendar. On the summer solstice, the shadow of the sun is the shortest, the day in the northern hemisphere is the longest, and the night is the shortest. The energy radiated by the sun to the ground is concentrated, and the temperature is generally very high. "Solstice" also means extreme, so it is named.

In the early days, whether the summer solstice festival in the east or the midsummer festival in the west, the summer solstice has always been one of the important traditional festivals of the year. The summer solstice is rarely directly related to traditional festivals in Chinese culture today, but it still retains its seasonal characteristics. Therefore, Summer Solstice is especially included in the creation concept of the composer's solar terms series.

Summer Solstice is a work with three movements. It uses Marimba's characteristics, such as a combination of multiple instruments, with its wide range and a variety of playing techniques, as well as mellow, gentle, velvety, sonorous, and melodious sounds. Marimba portrays and plays the scene of the summer solstice in three differently movements, such as people's laziness and irritability, the rainy season and climate changed, as well as the folk games of the children in Taiwan. We can feel the scorching heat of summer through this work.

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I

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slightly free (♩ = 60)

l.v.

3-5s

Marimba

p (medium yarn)

mf > *pp*

mp

(soft yarn)

mp *sfp* *mf* *p*

10

laziness, irritability

mf *p*

mf

(medium yarn)

p *mf* *p*

17

mf *mp* *f* *sfp* *p* *mf* *mp*

24

p *p* *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*