

六月雪
Snow In June

for Soprano, Scottish Small Pipes, Symphony and Chorus

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Instrumentation

2 Flutes

Piccolo

2 Oboes

2 Clarinets in Bb

2 Bassoons

4 French Horns in F

3 Trumpets

2 Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

4 Percussions

Solo Soprano

Solo Small Scottish Pipes

Chorus

Strings

樂曲解說

「六月雪」取材自竇娥冤的故事，樂曲起始於竇娥被押赴刑場一景，飾演竇娥的獨唱女高音，以不同的情緒緩緩唱出冤枉二字，時而悲泣，時而絕望，時而激動悲憤。合唱團分置於舞台左右兩側及管絃樂團的後方，恰似聞訊而至的群眾，沿途伴隨著竇娥走最後的一程。

本曲企圖透過音樂，詮釋竇娥複雜而難以言喻的內心糾葛。我希望透過聲響，來刻劃竇娥行刑前，撼動天地、刺穿靈魂的一聲尖叫。

曲末，原本位在舞台兩側的合唱團女聲，移至觀眾席後方，輕聲唱出竇娥的名字，聽眾被環繞包圍在由管絃樂與合唱女聲共同塑造的嗚咽聲中，彷彿世人懸延而無盡的嘆息。

Program Notes

Snow in June is based on the 13th century Chinese drama "The Injustice to Dou E" by Kuan Han-Ching. It depicts the tale of a young woman (Dou E) who confesses to a crime she did not commit in an effort to spare her mother-in-law. Dou E loses her mother at the age of three, is given away by her father at seven to become a child-bride and is married at seventeen only to lose her husband two years later. After her husband's death, she resigns herself to fate, by serving her mother-in-law diligently and remaining loyal to her deceased husband. Yet she is not even permitted to suffer in peace. Two rogues of Zhang's intrude into her house and force her and her mother-in-law to marry them. Dou E pushes them to the ground when her mother-in-law is about to kneel down from fear. Failing to make Dou E consent to the marriage, the young Zhang contrives a plot to isolate her completely by poisoning her mother-in-law. But the Old Zhang incidentally drinks the poisoned soup; the villain kills his own father by mistake. Again Dou E is left to face two choices: either accept the hateful marriage or be accused of murder in court. She chooses the latter and to her disappointment, the corrupt official is bribed by the villain. Refusing to yield even under "one thousand beatings and ten thousand tortures," she finally makes a false confession when the judge threatens to torture her mother-in-law. As a result, she is condemned to die.

As Dou E is led to her death, she proclaims her unjust execution will cause the region to suffer from drought, her blood will run up a piece of white silk instead of dripping down to stain the ground, and a heavy snow will fall to protect her corpse from exposure even though it is midsummer. The three prophecies all come true as her spirit leaves the earth.

The composition starts with the scene when Dou E marches to the execution ground. The singers of the chorus surround the auditorium as the crowds gather to grieve for Dou E. Through the music, I wish to express Dou E's complex emotions and to orchestrate her scream - a sound, I imagine, to penetrate all human souls. Without being able to tell the location of the sound source, clouds of sighs are heard and the piece ends with the image of snow in June.

歌詞 Lyrics

translated and edited by Lin, Kuei-Ju and Kathleen Gallagher
(Words in italics are phrases in Mandarin Chinese)

Yuan Wan

Mercy Innocent Injustice

Tian Di Ye

Heaven and earth should distinguish the pure from the foul

The wicked enjoy wealth long life and nobility

The good suffer from poverty and die young

Tian Di Ye

Heaven and earth

Cuo Cuo Cuo Cuo Cuo

Di Ye

You fail to discriminate between good and evil

You are called Heaven in vain

I have nothing but two streams of tears

Flowing unceasingly

Stand back

The time has come

Ah

Dou E

Dou E

Dou E

The wandering clouds darken for my sake

The mournful wind whirls on my behalf

The snow will fall

will fall in June

Spreading

Spreading

Spreading

Spreading like cotton

to protect

to protect

my corpse

六月雪 Snow in June Part I

♩ = 36

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