

暮島之聲
Voices from the twilight islands
For male chorus
(2020)



Chen-Hui Jen

《暮島之聲》樂曲解說

此曲受木樓合唱團委託，以「人民」與「土地」為主旨，因此我選擇以自身家鄉所在的「島嶼」意象出發，譜寫《暮島之聲》之詞曲。在我所居住的亞熱帶氣候的黃昏時刻、亦即日暮之時，許多蟲鳥都出來覓食，那些聲音對我而言就是家鄉的聲音。標題中的「暮島」除象徵家鄉的島嶼之外，也藉由「島」的同音字來暗示，除了島上的我們的聲音之外，對於環境變化未來之祈禱：這幾年由於全球氣候變遷、海平線逐漸上升，許多自然景觀與人類文化都終將消逝。我在曲中重覆大量的「呼吸」、「潮汐」、「海」等字句，以文字本身之聲響來構成島上黃昏時刻之音景，與「在島上歌唱的我們」相呼應。

Voices from the Twilight Islands – program note

The work was commissioned by the Müller Chamber Choir. I chose the image of the island, where my hometown is located, as my intimate reflection on the topic of people and land. The sea level has been gradually rising due to the climate change and global warming for decades. As a result, much of nature and human culture will ultimately become extinct. In the subtropical areas where I live, many birds and insects come out during the sunset, therefore those sounds to me is the sound of home. In addition to the symbol of my home island, the "twilight islands" in the title also implies our voices and prayers to the future of the environment, through the homonym of the word "island" and "prayer" (IPA: [dɑʊ]) in Chinese Mandarin. Throughout the piece I also repeat words like "breath", "tides", and "ocean" to build a soundscape of twilight islands with the phonemes, and to echo with "us, who sing on the island".

暮島之聲

遠古的山
遠古的海
遠古的旋律
環抱我們的島嶼

你聽，島嶼的呼吸
蟬噪與鳥鳴
你看那花草與森林
島上的生命、河流與潮汐
日夜歌唱我們生長的大地

大地輕輕向海底推移
遠古的冰河與沙漠
都要聽海的呼吸
時間緩緩貼近明日

明日島嶼變成了海
大地變成了海
我們的世界都變成了海
那時遠古的山變成新的島嶼
島上再也沒有我們

Voices from the Twilight Islands

Distant mountains,
Distant oceans,
Distant melodies
Embracing our islands.

Listen – the island's breath,
the cicadas' noise, and the birds' chirps.
You see flowers, grasslands, and forests –
those lives on the islands, rivers, and ocean tides
day and night singing and praising our land.

The land is tenderly pushed towards the bottom of ocean.
Distant glaciers and deserts
are all listening to the ocean's breath.
Time is slowly flowing towards the new sun.

Tomorrow when our islands become an ocean,
the lands become an ocean,
and our whole world becomes an ocean
the distant mountains will become new islands
where we no longer breathe.

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Lively and Consistently Moving ♩ = c. 84-92)

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Pitched Air (Unvoiced) *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

Tenor

pp *mp* *pp* *p*

Air Sound Individual *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

[ʃy - i - y] [ʃo] slow

Bass

pp *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *sempre*

Individual *molto* *pp* *sempre* *freely*

Individual *molto* *pp* *sempre* *not too fast* *freely*

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Pitched Air (Unvoiced) *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p*

T

pp *sempre* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Air Sound Individual **A** *mf* *p*

[ʃi - (ʃy) - ʃo] *freely*

遠古的山

pp *poco* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

[ʃy] [ʃy - i - y] [ʃo] *slow*

(pp) *sempre*

B

(pp) *Unis.* *mp*

山

p *pp* *mp*

遠古的山

Air Sound & Pitched Air: The given vowels are to shape the mouth and create timbral variety. They are unvoiced but can focus on certain pitched if indicated.