

Chihchun Chi-sun Lee

The Return of Soul

【魂迴夢轉】

Pipa Concerto with String Quartet
(2019)

 財團法人 | 國家文化藝術 | 基金會

Funded by the Taiwan National Cultural and Arts Foundation

***The Return of Soul* 魂迴夢轉 for Pipa and String Quartet**

Program Notes:

The Return of Soul, pipa concerto with string quartet, is based on an ancient play “The Peony Pavilion” for Kunqu opera, a love affair written by Tang Xianzu in 1598. The text also implies the political defense of the failing Song dynasty against the aggressive Jin Dynasty. The outline of the piece is designed around these main scenes (from the original 55 scenes): Touring in the Garden), Dream, Retracing the Dream, Departing of Soul (death), Judgement of Underworld, Discovered and Admired the Portrait, Secret Rendezvous, A Vow (between lady ghost and man), Resurrection (return of soul), Wedding, Repudiate and Challenges, and Reunion (happy ending). The whole piece bundles with an introduction and a conclusion. This work is commissioned by the Pacific Quartet Vienna.

【魂迴夢轉】為維也納 Pacific Quartet Vienna 委托創作的作品，以昆劇”牡丹亭”的故事為主，引以為創作的元素及基本素材，進而塑造出來的作品。所運用的樂器有琵琶及弦樂四重奏。湯顯祖被歐美人士奉稱為亞洲的莎士比亞。其文學創作，特別是牡丹亭陳述了女性對情愛的看法及執著。在當時可說是前無古人後無來者的創作思想及手法，也藉著這樣子的作品，來隱喻並影射出當時對文人雅士的不公。在當時文風保守社會中，其文學可堪稱獨具一格。近年來有些創作以牡丹亭為素材，大多出自於男性作曲家之手。這次藉由此次委托創作的機會，將以女性的觀點來陳述牡丹亭所帶來的震撼及細膩。希望能帶來不同的感官世界及詮釋方式，由女性來闡述女性。並將古典文學、傳統戲劇及現代音樂加以結合。

這作品將以湯顯祖”牡丹亭”中的十一個章節為骨幹，以敘事曲的方式呈現:

第一段為: 標目【蝶戀花】(末上)忙處拋人閒處住。百計思量，沒箇為歡處。白日消磨腸斷句，世間只有情難訴。玉茗堂前朝復暮，紅燭迎人，俊得江山助。但是相思莫相負，牡丹亭上三生路。

第二段為: 遊園、驚夢、尋夢

第三段為: 離魂(第二十齣 鬧殤)，冥判

第四段為: 拾畫、叫畫、幽媾、冥誓、回生、婚走

最終段落為: conclusion 總結

Score

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Pipa Tuning: A D E A

$\text{♩} = 60$

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time. The Pipa part (measures 1-4) features a melody with triplets and vibrato, marked *mf*. The string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello) enters in measure 2 with a sustained chord, marked *p* and *molto sul pont.*. The Viola and Cello parts include specific fingerings: *sul D* for the Viola and *sul A* for the Cello.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The Pipa part (measures 5-8) continues with triplets and dynamic markings *p > pp*. The string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello) continues with their sustained chord, marked *p* and *molto sul tasto normale*. The Viola and Cello parts include specific fingerings: *normale* for the Viola and *normale* for the Cello.