Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra

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CONCERTO FOR VIOLONCELLO AND ORCHESTRA

A Thesis

Submitted to the Graduate Faculty of the
Louisiana State University and
Agricultural and Mechanical College
in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of
Master of Music

in

The Department of Music Composition

by

Xing Li
B.A., Xinghai Conservatory of Music, 2012
August 2015
Acknowledgments

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# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgments</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumentation</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abstract</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vita</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Instrumentation

Piccolo (Picc.)
2 Flutes (Fl. 1&2)
2 Oboes (Ob. 1&2)
English Horn
2 Clarinets in B\textsuperscript{b} (B\textsuperscript{b} Cl. 1&2)
2 Bassoons (Bsn. 1&2)
4 Horns in F (Hn. 1&2, 3&4)
2 Trumpets in C (C Tpt. 1&2)
3 Trombones (Tbn. 1&2, 3)
Tuba (Tuba)
Timpani (Timp.)
Marimba (Mrb.)
Harp (Hp.)
Solo Cello (Solo Vc.)
Violin I (Vln. I)
Violin II (Vln. II)
Viola (Vla.)
Cello (Vc.)
Double Bass (D.B.)
Abstract

This piece is inspired by three different fable stories, which my parents told to me when I was a child. It has three different characteristic sections. The main tune throughout the piece has Chinese elements, including the use of pentatonic scales and intervals of the second. During each section, I employed the melodious melody of solo cello as the transition to bridge different sections. These transitions are all composed of Chinese folk tunes.

The first section uses a story about perseverance. A pony wants to cross a river but it is indecisive and afraid. Some of animals tell the pony the river is very deep, but some of them say it is shallow. Finally, the pony tries to cross the river by itself and it succeeded. This section has two lyric movements and I am using lyricism to evoke the feeling of uncertainty.

In the second section I used the story of the tortoise and the hare. There are two main characters: the melody of piccolo plays the role of the hare; the melody of solo cello plays the role of the tortoise. These two instruments always act in cooperation with each other. Also, I employed lively motivations to express the feeling of humor.

In the third section, I was inspired by a traditional Chinese fable about faith making things happen. An old man, named Yukong, lived behind a mountain. There was no path to cross the mountain. So the old man decided to move the mountain piece by piece. No one believed he could succeed, but he did it. It is because he did the same thing over and over again. In this section I employed similar melodic patterns and continuous imitation to describe the story.
VITA

Xing Li, an international student from China, received her bachelor’s degree (B.A.) at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music in 2012. She learned music from an early age and started to play the piano at 5 years old. In 1998, she received the second award for Piano Competition in the city of Qingdao, China. Also, she received many Graded Certificates for piano during her childhood. She started composing music before going to college and continued music composition as her major at Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou, China. In 2011, she had a chance to study music composition in University of Central Arkansas during a half year and some native students of music school performed her chamber music piece ‘Sound’ in their concert. As her interest in music composition grew, she made the decision to enter graduate school in the School of Music at Louisiana State University. During her postgraduate period, her pieces were performed multiple times in LSU Composers forum. On March 22, 2015, she had an honor to have a world premiere of her piece ‘Sound from the Dream’, which was performed by Louisiana Sinfonietta. She will receive her master’s degree in August 2015.