

The Dream

Elizabeth Lim

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Duration: 6 minutes

PROGRAM NOTE: "The Dream" is a piece adapted from my suite for chamber orchestra, "Chao Chun."

This movement describes the Chinese moon goddess as disembodied through a dream;

Chao Chun is suspended in time while her spirit seeks to return home. While an undergraduate student,

I focused on composing music inspired by East Asian culture. "The Dream" carries these influences especially through its reverence for time and sound. The melody is a thoughtful and introspective one. Many of its harmonies are constructed from the pentatonic scale, and the use of ornamentation mimicks the playing of a Chinese dizi (flute). While seeking to create a language that combined both East Asian and Western musical influences, I emphasized rhythmic freedom and melodic range.

I never wanted the melody to feel restricted in any sense, yet I also wanted it to be clear that the melody undergoes a transformation during the piece. This transformation is especially clear in the last iteration of the theme. In the beginning, it carries clear Asian influence through its pentatonic harmonies, intervallic leaps of fourths and fifths, and dotted rhythms. However, the melody here is interspersed with harmonies and intervals outside Asian influence. Eventually, this conflict emerges into something pure and revelatory.