

Program listing:

I. Rat	II. Ox	III. Tiger	IV. Rabbit	V. Dragon	VI. Snake
VII. Horse	VIII. Sheep	IX. Monkey	X. Chicken	XI. Dog	XII. Pig

Program note:

*Twelve Signs* is based on the Chinese Zodiac, which is a cycle of twelve years. In Chinese astrology, the twelve animal signs represent twelve different types of personalities and this piece has twelve movements which correspond to each sign. The zodiac traditionally begins with the sign of the Rat, followed by the Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar. Although the twelve animals have their own characteristics, they can be classified into four trines based on thematic similarities. The animals of the first trine, the Rat, Dragon and Monkey, are described as extroverted, dynamic, and passionate. These three movements will therefore have a relatively fast tempo marked by energy and power. The animals of the second trine, the Ox, Snake, and Rooster, are described as philosophical, patient and meditative. These three movements will be characterized by a freer tempo and more abstract tonality. The animals of the third trine, the Tiger, Horse, and Dog, are described as rash, impulsive, and idealistic. These three movements will have mixed tempo, less rational and more fragmented materials. The animals of the fourth trine, the Rabbit, Sheep, and Pig, are described as intuitive, calm and sensible. These three movements will be characterized by a slower tempo and lyrical elements. The piece will also incorporate various timbres and techniques which correspond to the five elements of the Chinese Astrology.

Duration: ca. 12 minutes

Chiayu was born in Banciao, Taiwan. She was the winner of Lynn University international call for scores, the 2010 Sorel Organization recording grant, music+culture 2009 International Competition for Composers, the Sorel Organization's 2nd International Composition Competition, the 7th USA International Harp Composition Competition, ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer's Awards, the Maxfield Parrish Composition Contest, the Renée B. Fisher Foundation Composer Awards among others. Her work has been performed by the London Sinfonietta, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony, the Nashville Symphony, the Toledo Symphony, the American Composers Orchestra, the Cabrillo Festival Orchestra, Aspen Music Festival Contemporary Ensemble, Eighth Blackbird, Ciompi Quartet, and Prism Quartet. She has received her Ph.D. at Duke University, Master of Music at Yale University School of Music, and Bachelor of Music at the Curtis Institute of Music.