

Maria Lazareva

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"Fantasia" for violin solo

Approx.duration: 7:20

My piece for a solo violin "Fantasia" was composed specially for the "Asian Inspiration" Composition Competition and is dedicated to violinist Kia-Hui Tan, whose incredible technique skills and beautiful cantilena performance inspired me to write a piece, which in my opinion and imagination reflects her personality as a musician and could be interesting for her to play.

"Fantasia" for a solo violin is my tribute to Asia, as it has been influencing me in my life in many ways. My respect and admiration to its culture, loyalty to traditions, exquisiteness, beauty of nature and most of all - its people, who, despite difficult historic events and harsh circumstances, that appear in their lives, always stay the most good-hearted, intelligent, modest, talented and diligent persons I've ever met. Probably most of all I'd like to show my respect to Japan in this music - the only asian country I've visited. My first and only visit in 2011 was just a month after the horrible nature cataclysm.

In "Fantasia" I tried to transmit the beauty of asian nature (snowy mountains peaks, mist, sakura petals dancing in the wind), asian national music and instruments (ehru and little bells sound imitation on the second half of page 2) and the spirit of asian people – their strength and strong will despite difficulties, that occur in their lives, their incredible sense of beauty and understanding of life fragility. On page 4 there is a short musical quote from "The Memoirs of Geisha" soundtrack – my tribute to wonderful composer John Williams.

Cantilena parts in the piece may be performed with freedom, like an improvisation. Fast parts should be played with energy and passion. Slowing down the tempo in the passages, which are not so comfortable to play, is allowed. D-string peg tuning on the last line of the piece is optional.