

Evan Ziporyn

**THE ORNATE ZITHER
AND THE NOMAD FLUTE**

to poems by
LI Shangyin and W. S. Merwin

*commissioned for Anne Harley and the MIT Wind Ensemble,
Fred Harris, director,
by Richard D. Nordlof, MIT Class of 1955,
in loving memory of his wife Jody*

The Ornate Zither and the Nomad Flute

To poems by Li Shangyin and W.S. Merwin

by Evan Ziporyn

For soprano voice and wind ensemble

Duration: @15'30"

Instrumentation

Soprano voice

Piccolo

Flute

Flute/Alto Flute

2 Oboes

2 B-flat Clarinets

2 B-flat Bass Clarinets

2 Bassoons

2 B-flat Soprano Saxophones

2 F Horns

2 B-flat Trumpets

Trombone

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Percussion Battery (4 players):

Left: Crotales (bowed and struck), Vibraphone (bowed and struck), 2 cymbals, high hat, maracas, sleigh bells, cowbell,

Right:

Electric Piano (amplified)

Double Bass (amplified)

Performance notes:

Set-up: Instruments are to be arrayed from left to right in the following order. This can be modified to conform with stage size, but left right assignments should be retained:

1st row: Oboes (L), Flutes (C), Clarinets (R)

2nd row: Sax1 (L), Bass Clarinets (L), Bassoons (R), Sax 2 (R)

3rd row: Trpt 1 (L), Trbs (L), Horns (C), Euphonium/Tuba (R), Trpt 2 (R)

4th row: Percussion L, Piano/Bass (C), Percussion R

Voice: Both texts alternate, and are to be sung in their original language, i.e., the Li in Mandarin, the Merwin in English. A somewhat literal word-by-word translation is provided underneath the pinyin for the convenience of the performer. Dynamics are at the discretion of the vocalist, though it is understood that the vocal part should always be prominent. If possible, no amplification should be used for the voice.

The Ornate Zither and the Nomad Flute was commissioned for the MIT Wind Ensemble, Fred Harris, director, by Richard Nordlof, MIT Class of 1955, in loving memory of his wife Jody. It was premiered by soprano Anne Harley and MITWE at Kresge Auditorium, Cambridge, MA, on March 11 2005.

錦瑟

李商隱

錦瑟無端五十絃
一絃一柱思華年
莊生曉夢迷蝴蝶
望帝春心託杜鵑
蒼海月明珠有淚
藍田日暖玉生煙
此情可待成追憶
只是當時已惘然

The Ornate Zither

By Li Shangyin (813-858)

Translation by Brook & Evan Ziporyn

Ornate zither, no endpoint, fifty strings
Each string, each peg, recalls a year of flowers
Zhuang awakes from his morning dream, a
confused butterfly
Wang's spring soul is entrusted to the cuckoo
Azure sea, moon bright, pearl with tear
Blue field, warm sun, smoke from jade
This feeling may become a thing remembered
Only at that time it is already as if a bewilderment

The Nomad Flute

By W.S. Merwin (b. 1927)

You that sang to me once sing to me now
let me hear your long lifted note
survive with me
the star is fading
I can think farther than that but I forget
do you hear me

do you still hear me
does your air
remember you
oh breath of morning
night song morning song
I have with me
all that I do not know
I have lost none of it

but I know better now
than to ask you
where you learned that music
where any of it came from
once there were lions in China

I will listen until the flute stops
and the light is old again

-WS Merwin

DURATION: 15 minutes

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TRANSPPOSED SCORE

Li Shangyin and W.S. Merwin

The Ornate Zither and the Nomad Flute

EVAN ZIPORYN

♩ = 104

Score for the first system of instruments:

- Voice
- Piccolo
- 1. Flute
- 2. Alto Flute
- L. Oboe
- R. Oboe
- L. B♭ Clarinet
- R. B♭ Clarinet
- L. B♭ Bass Clarinet
- R. B♭ Bass Clarinet
- L. Bassoon
- R. Bassoon
- L. B♭ Soprano Saxophone
- R. B♭ Soprano Saxophone

Musical notation includes rests for most instruments and melodic lines for the B♭ Soprano Saxophone parts, marked *mp*.

♩ = 104

Score for the second system of instruments:

- L. F Horn
- R. F Horn
- L. B♭ Trumpet
- R. B♭ Trumpet
- Trombone
- Trombone
- Bass R.
- Euphonium L.
- Tuba R.

Musical notation shows rests for all instruments in this system.

♩ = 104

Score for the third system of instruments:

- I L. Percussion
- II R. Percussion
- III L. Vibraphone
- III R. Vibraphone
- Elec. Piano
- Contrabass

Musical notation includes rests for most instruments and melodic lines for the Vibraphone parts, marked *mf* and labeled "bowed".

♩ = 76

♩ = 84

7

V.

Picc.

1.
Fl.

A. Fl. R.

L.
Ob.

R.

L.
B♭ Cl.

R.

L.
B♭ B. Cl.

R.

L.
B♭ S. Sax.

R.

♩ = 76

♩ = 84

7

L.
F Hn.

R.

L.
B♭ Tpt.

R.

L.
Tbn.

Bass R.

Euph. L.

Tba. R.

♩ = 76

♩ = 84

7

I L.
Perc.

II R.

III L.
Vibr.

III R.

E. Pno.

Cb.