

Fort Canning Park Birds

*for live songbird, Flute, Erhu (ad lib. Violin),
Cello and chamber music group*

Hardy MERTENS

Based on a poem by Weifen LEONG

Dedicated to Amalia TORTAJADA

Note to the conductor

Singapore's beautiful Fort Canning Park hosts four species of birds; the black-naped oriole, the collared kingfisher, the coppersmith barbet and the yellow-vented bulbul.

Their singing inspired me to write this music, dedicated to the great Amalia Tortajada. Neither of them are famous songbirds, but together they create a marvellous everyday symphony.

The opening chords represent the experience of entering Fort Canning Park; climbing the stairs, leaving all traffic noises behind, entering the magical world of tropical birdlife.

Fort Canning Park reveals itself as a worldwide symbol of relaxation, meditation and inspiration. Also to my beloved friend Leong Weifen, who painted this miracle of nature in her poem.

The example Fort Canning Park sets worldwide, is brought to attention by the songbird on stage. Luckily we can still enjoy songbirds in many countries on our precious planet.

Therefore the choice of this delicate singer is free to the conductor.

A winged habitant of any area where this music is performed, would be warmly welcomed.

May the duets between songbird and flute player lead to the deepest respect for birdlife worldwide. Should our feathered friend decide to remain silent, then its visual presence will still not fail to make an impression.

It is highly recommended however to rehearse in the presence of the songbird as many times as possible.

Please perform this music as an opening piece for the first or second half of your concert.

The songbird has to be on stage before the musicians and the audience enter the hall.

Gradually adapting to the situation will stimulate the songbird's natural behaviour.

Its singing before the sound of the opening chords could very well be the best omen for a wonderful performance.

Fort Canning Park Birds

by Weifen LEONG

Sing little birds, sing!
Chirping, at the light of dawn,
twilight and my dreams

You are the Symphony of joy
You are the Symphony of freedom
You create the Symphony of peace
and harmony

Fly little birds, fly!
Fly beyond the edge,
to reach your wildest dreams

Soar high!
And above your mighty wings
For there is no end
to the sky of your creation free...

Duration: appr. 12:00

Fort Canning Park Birds

Hardy MERTENS

Slow with rubato feel

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Flute
- Erhu
- Cello (measures 1-8, *ppp* to *p*)
- B♭ Clarinet 1
- B♭ Clarinet 2
- B♭ Clarinet 3
- B♭ Clarinet 4
- B♭ Clarinet 5
- Bass Clarinet 1
- Bass Clarinet 2
- String Bass 1
- String Bass 2
- Harp (measures 1-8, *fff*, *(Fade out)*)
- Vibraphone (measures 1-8, *Slow vibrato*, *(Fade out)*, *fff*)
- Marimba 1
- Marimba 2

The score begins with a first measure marked '1'. The Cello part features a melodic line starting with a *ppp* dynamic and ending with a *p* dynamic. The Harp and Vibraphone parts include *fff* dynamics and *(Fade out)* markings. The Vibraphone part also includes a *Slow vibrato* instruction.



1 2

Flute

Erhu

Cello

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B \flat Cl. 3

B \flat Cl. 4

B \flat Cl. 5

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

Harp

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

pp

ff

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

f

f

(Fade out)

(Fade out)

9

Flute *mf*

Erhu

Cello *p* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B♭ Cl. 4

B♭ Cl. 5

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

Harp *p*

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

17

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 17, contains staves for various instruments. The Flute part begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Cello part starts with a dynamic marking of *p* and a crescendo leading to *mf*. The woodwind section includes five B♭ Clarinets, two Bass Clarinets, and two Saxophones, all playing a melodic line of quarter notes with slurs. The Harp part is mostly silent, with a dynamic marking of *p* and some chords in the final measures. The Vibraphone and Maracas parts are also silent on this page.



3

Flute *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Erhu

Cello 25 *p*

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B \flat Cl. 3

B \flat Cl. 4

B \flat Cl. 5 25

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2 25

Harp

Vibra. *p*

Mar. 1

Mar. 2 25

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for an orchestra, numbered 8. It contains 18 staves. The Flute part (top) features a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf* and phrasing slurs. The Cello part (second staff) has a sustained bass line starting at measure 25 with a *p* dynamic. The woodwind section (Clarinets 1-5, Bassoons 1-2) and strings (Violins 1-2, Viola) play sustained notes with phrasing slurs. The Harp part has a sparse accompaniment. The Vibraphone (Vibra.) part has a rhythmic pattern starting at measure 25 with a *p* dynamic. The Mallets (Mar.) parts are mostly silent. A rehearsal mark '3' is placed at the beginning of the Flute staff. A page number '25' appears at the end of the Cello, B \flat Cl. 5, and Mar. 2 staves. A watermark 'www.hafabramusic.com' is visible on the right side of the page.

4

Flute *mf* > *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Erhu

Cello

33

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B♭ Cl. 4

B♭ Cl. 5

33

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

33

Harp

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

33

10.

5

Flute *mf* *p* *mf*

Erhu

Cello

42

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B♭ Cl. 4

B♭ Cl. 5

42

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

42

Harp

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

42



6

7

Flute *p* *ff* *p*

Erhu

Cello *mf* *pp* *p*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 3 *mf* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 4 *mf* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 5 *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. 1 *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. 2 *mf* *pp*

St. B. 1 *mf* *pp*

St. B. 2 *mf* *pp*

Harp *ff* (Fade out)

Vibra. *ff* (Fade out)

Mar. 1

Mar. 2



Flute
 Erhu
 Cello
 B \flat Cl. 1
 B \flat Cl. 2
 B \flat Cl. 3
 B \flat Cl. 4
 B \flat Cl. 5
 B. Cl. 1
 B. Cl. 2
 St. B. 1
 St. B. 2
 Harp
 Vibra.
 Mar. 1
 Mar. 2

Musical score for page 12, featuring various instruments and dynamic markings. The score is divided into systems, with measures 58 and 59 indicated. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ppp*, and *p*.

Flute: *mp*, *mf*, *f*
 Erhu: *ppp*, *f*
 Cello: *mp*, *mf*, *ppp*
 B \flat Cl. 1-5: *p*
 B. Cl. 1-2: *p*
 St. B. 1-2: *p*
 Harp: *p*, *mp*, *mf*
 Vibra.: *p*, *mp*, *mf*

8

Flute

Erhu

Cello

ff *Optional bowing* mf

ff mf

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B \flat Cl. 3

B \flat Cl. 4

B \flat Cl. 5

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

pp

pp

pp

pp

Harp

f ff (Fade out) mf p

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

f ff (Fade out)



Flute *p* *Fade out*

Erhu *p* *Fade out*

Cello 71

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B \flat Cl. 3

B \flat Cl. 4

B \flat Cl. 5 71

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2 71

Harp *p*

Vibra. *p*

Mar. 1 *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

Mar. 2 71

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a symphony orchestra. It features multiple staves for various instruments. The Flute and Erhu parts are marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and include a 'Fade out' instruction. The Cello part starts at measure 71. The woodwind section includes five B-flat Clarinets (Cl. 1-5), two B Clarinets (B. Cl. 1-2), and two Saxophones (St. B. 1-2). The Harp part has a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Vibraphone (Vibra.) part is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Maracas (Mar. 1 and Mar. 2) parts feature complex rhythmic patterns with dynamics ranging from *ppp* to *p*. A page number '9' is located in a box at the top right, and the number '71' appears at the beginning of several staves, likely indicating the measure number in the original score.

10

This musical score page covers measures 78 through 83. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Measures 78-83. Starts with a rest, then plays a melodic line from measure 80. Dynamics: *ppp*.
- Erhu:** Measures 78-83. Starts with a rest, then plays a melodic line from measure 80. Dynamics: *ppp*.
- Cello:** Measures 78-83. Rest throughout.
- B♭ Cl. 1-5:** Measures 78-83. Rest throughout.
- B. Cl. 1-2:** Measures 78-83. Rest throughout.
- St. B. 1:** Measures 78-83. Rests in measures 78-79, then plays a sustained low note from measure 80. Dynamics: *ppp*.
- St. B. 2:** Measures 78-83. Rests in measures 78-79, then plays a sustained low note from measure 80. Dynamics: *ppp*.
- Harp:** Measures 78-83. Rests in measures 78-79, then plays a sustained arpeggiated chord from measure 80. Dynamics: *ppp*.
- Vibra.:** Measures 78-83. Rests in measures 78-79, then plays a sustained arpeggiated chord from measure 80. Dynamics: *ppp*.
- Mar. 1:** Measures 78-83. Active throughout. Dynamics: *ppp*, *mf*, *p*, *ppp*.
- Mar. 2:** Measures 78-83. Rest throughout.

Measure numbers 78 are indicated at the beginning of the first staff of each instrument group.



Flute

Erhu

Cello

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B♭ Cl. 4

B♭ Cl. 5

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

Harp

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

p

Fade out

ppp

p

mp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

p

p

pp

pp

p

p

pp

pp

pp

mp

85

This page of a musical score, numbered 17, features a variety of instruments. The Flute part begins with a melodic line marked *mf*, which transitions to *f* later in the measure. The Erhu part has a melodic line marked *mf*. The Cello part is mostly silent. The woodwind section consists of five B♭ Clarinets (Cl. 1-5) and two Saxophones (Sax. 1-2), all playing sustained notes marked *p*. The Harp part features arpeggiated chords marked *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The Vibraphone part has a melodic line marked *mp*, *mf*, and *f*. The Maracas part consists of two parts, Mar. 1 and Mar. 2, with Mar. 1 marked *p* and Mar. 2 marked *mf* and *f*. The page number 91 is visible at the bottom left.



Flute *ff*

Erhu *ff* *mf*

Cello 96 *ff* *mf*

B \flat Cl. 1 *mf*

B \flat Cl. 2 *mf*

B \flat Cl. 3 *mf*

B \flat Cl. 4 *mf*

B \flat Cl. 5 96 *mf*

B. Cl. 1 *mf*

B. Cl. 2 *mf*

St. B. 1 *mf*

St. B. 2 96 *mf*

Harp *ff* (Fade out)

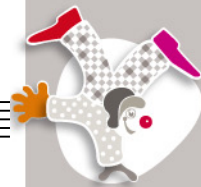
Vibra. (Fade out)

Mar. 1 *mf*

Mar. 2 96 *ff* *mf*

This page of a musical score covers measures 103 to 107. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*. Dynamics change to *mf* in measure 106 and back to *p* in measure 107.
- Erhu:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *mf*.
- Cello:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.
- B♭ Cl. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.
- B. Cl. 1, 2:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.
- St. B. 1, 2:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.
- Harp:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.
- Vibra.:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.
- Mar. 1, 2:** Measures 103-104 are marked *pp*. Measures 105-107 are marked *p*.



Musical score for various instruments including Flute, Erhu, Cello, B♭ Cl. 1-5, St. B. 1-2, Harp, Vibra., and Mar. 1-2. The score includes dynamics such as *mf*, *p*, and *pp*, and is marked with the number 109 at the beginning of several staves.

The score is written for a full orchestra and includes parts for:

- Flute
- Erhu
- Cello
- B♭ Cl. 1
- B♭ Cl. 2
- B♭ Cl. 3
- B♭ Cl. 4
- B♭ Cl. 5
- B. Cl. 1
- B. Cl. 2
- St. B. 1
- St. B. 2
- Harp
- Vibra.
- Mar. 1
- Mar. 2

The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, dynamics, and articulation marks. The Flute part includes dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *pp*. The Erhu part includes dynamics *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *p*. The Cello part starts with the number 109. The woodwind and brass sections (B♭ Cl. 1-5, B. Cl. 1-2, St. B. 1-2) are marked with 109. The Harp part includes dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*. The Vibra. part includes dynamic markings *fz*. The Mar. 1 and Mar. 2 parts include dynamic markings *mf*, *p*, and *fz*. The number 109 is also present at the bottom left of the Mar. 2 staff.

Flute

Erhu

Cello

p *mf* *ff* *p*

mf *ff* *mf*

115

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B♭ Cl. 4

B♭ Cl. 5

115

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

115

Harp

115

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

115



Flute *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Erhu *p* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Cello

122

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B \flat Cl. 3

B \flat Cl. 4

B \flat Cl. 5

122

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

122

Harp

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

122

16

This musical score page contains measures 130 and 131. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Measure 130 starts with a dynamic of *mf* and a hairpin indicating a transition to *p*. Measure 131 is silent.
- Erhu:** Measure 130 starts with a dynamic of *mf* and a hairpin indicating a transition to *p*. Measure 131 has a melodic line starting on a whole note *mf* dynamic.
- Cello:** Measure 130 starts with a dynamic of *ppp* and a hairpin indicating a transition to *mf*. Measure 131 continues the melodic line.
- B♭ Cl. 1-5:** All five parts play a sustained whole note chord in measure 130 and continue in measure 131.
- B. Cl. 1-2:** Both parts play a sustained whole note chord in measure 130 and continue in measure 131.
- St. B. 1-2:** Both parts play a sustained whole note chord in measure 130 and continue in measure 131.
- Harp:** Measure 130 is silent. Measure 131 has a sustained whole note chord starting on a *p* dynamic.
- Vibra.:** Measure 130 is silent. Measure 131 is marked *(Fade out)*.
- Mar. 1:** Measure 130 is silent. Measure 131 has a melodic line starting on a whole note *ppp* dynamic.
- Mar. 2:** Measure 130 is silent. Measure 131 has a melodic line starting on a whole note *ppp* dynamic.



Flute *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Erhu *ppp*

Cello 138 *ppp*

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B \flat Cl. 3

B \flat Cl. 4

B \flat Cl. 5 138

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2 138

Harp

Vibra. *p* (Fade out)

Mar. 1 *ppp*

Mar. 2 138 *ppp*

1 Silent bird: follow score
2 Singing bird: improvise in dialogue with bird

* Flute options:

18

Flute

Erhu

Cello

146

B♭ Cl. 1

div.

ppp

B♭ Cl. 2

div.

ppp

B♭ Cl. 3

div.

ppp

B♭ Cl. 4

div.

ppp

B♭ Cl. 5

146

ppp

B. Cl. 1

div.

ppp

B. Cl. 2

div.

ppp

St. B. 1

div.

ppp

St. B. 2

146

ppp

Harp

ppp

Vibra.

ppp

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

146

19 * Follow score

Flute

Erhu

Cello

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

B. Cl. 3

B. Cl. 4

B. Cl. 5

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

St. B. 1

St. B. 2

Harp

Vibra.

Mar. 1

Mar. 2

ppp

p

ppp

p

Fad

Fad

153

153

153

153

