

# Ballades for Four Seasons

Man-Ching Donald Yu

for soprano and chamber orchestra (2013)

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Dr. Donald Man-Ching Yu

*Ballades of  
Four Seasons*

for soprano and chamber orchestra

## **Program Notes**

The emotional aspect of each movement is closely connected to each poem, and numerous word paintings describing the scene of each poem are employed. Generally speaking, the language of the music reflects the fusion of Chinese colors, post-tonal elements along with diatonic modern language. Harmonically speaking, the musical language is transformed from diatonic to chromatic characters during the course of the whole piece, featuring the cycle from yan to yin; spring is analogous to yan whereas winter is analogous to yin.

*Duration: 10 minutes*

Written by Li Bai

Text:

Spring

The Lovely Lo Fo of the western land  
Plucks mulberry leaves by the waterside.  
Across the green boughs stretches out her white hand;  
In golden sunshine here rosy robe is dyed.  
"My silkworms are hungry, I cannot stay.  
Tarry not with your five-horse cab, I pray."

Summer

On Mirror Lake outspread for miles and miles,  
The lotus lilies in full blossom teem.  
In fifth moon Xi Shi gathers them with smiles,  
Watchers O'erwhelm the bank of Yoya Stream.  
Her boat turns back without waiting moonrise  
To royal house amid amorous sighs.

Autumn

Moonlight is spread all o'er the capital  
The sound of beating clothes far and near  
Is brought by autumn wind which can't blow all  
The longings away for far-off frontier.  
When can we vanquish the barbarian foe  
So that our men no longer into battle go?

Winter

The courier will depart next day, she's told.  
She sews a warrior's gown all night.  
Her fingers feel the needle cold.  
How can she hold the scissors tight?  
The work is done, she sends it far away.  
When will it reach the town where warriors stay?

# Ballades for four seasons

## SPRING

Man Ching Donald Yu

$\text{♩} = 72$  Expressively

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

1.2. Horns in F

1.2. Trumpets in B $\flat$

Timpani

Soprano solo

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$  Cl.

Bsn.

1.2. Hn.

1.2. B $\flat$  Tpt.

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

17 19 22

Fl. *pp* *pp*

Ob.

Bs. Cl. *p* *pp*

Bsn. *p* *pp*

1.2.Hn.

1.2.Bs Tpt. *p* *pp*

Timp.

S. *p*  
The love-ly lo - fo \_\_\_\_\_ of the wes - tern \_\_\_\_\_ land \_\_\_\_\_

Vln. 1 *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vla. *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vc. *p* *fp* Div.

D.B. *p*

24 25 28

Fl. *p* *pp*

Ob. *p* *pp*

Bs. Cl. *p* *pp* *p* *s* *s*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn. *p* *p*

1.2.Bs Tpt.

Timp.

S. *p* *pp*  
Plucks mul-ber - ry leaves by the \_\_\_\_\_ wa - ter side \_\_\_\_\_

Vln. 1 *fp* *fp* *p*

Vln. 2 *fp* *fp* *p*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *p*

Vc. *fp* Div. *as*

D.B. *p*

30 34

Fl. *p* *mf* *p*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *p*

Timp.

S. *mp*  
A - cross the green boughs stretch out her white hand

Vln. 1 *p* *pp* *fp*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp*

Vla. *p* *pp*

Vc. *p* Div. unis.

D.B. *p*

37 40

Fl. *p* *f* *ff* *fp* *ff*

Ob. *mf* *p* *f* *ff* *fp* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *fp* *ff*

Bsn. *f* *ff* *fp* *ff*

1.2.Hn. *fp* *f* *fp* *ff*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *f* *p* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *ff*

Timp. *mf* *mf* *fp* *f*

S. *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff*  
In gol - den sun - shine her ro - sy robe is dyed

Vln. 1 *ff* *fp* *f* *ff* *fp*

Vln. 2 *ff* *fp* *f* *ff* *fp*

Vla. *fp* *f* *ff* *fp*

Vc. *fp* *f* *ff*

D.B. *fp* *f* *ff*

42

Fl. *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

B♭ Cl. *f* *p*

Bsn. *f* *p*

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S *mp*  
My silk-worms \_\_\_ are

Vln. 1 *f* *p* *mp*

Vln. 2 *f* *p* *mp*

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

46

Fl. *f* *p*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *f* *p* *mp > p*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *f* *p*

Timp.

S *mp* *p* *pp*  
hun - gry \_\_\_ I can - not stay \_\_\_ Tar - ry not with your five houses cab \_\_\_ I pray \_\_\_

Vln. 1 *p* *p* *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *p*

D.B. *p* *p*



Musical score for measures 52-55. Instruments include Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horns (1.2. Hn.), Trumpets (1.2. B♭ Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Snare (S), Violins (Vln. 1, 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.).

- Ob.: *p* (measures 52-53), *pp* (measures 54-55)
- Bsn.: *p* (measures 54-55)
- Vln. 1: *pp* (measures 52-55)
- Vln. 2: *pp* (measures 52-55)
- Vla.: *pp* arco (measures 52-55)
- Vc.: *pp* arco (measures 52-55)
- D.B.: *pp* (measures 52-55)

Musical score for measures 56-58. Instruments include Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horns (1.2. Hn.), Trumpets (1.2. B♭ Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Snare (S), Violins (Vln. 1, 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.).

- Bsn.: *pp* (measures 56-58)
- Vln. 1: *ppp* (measures 57-58), *n.* (measure 58)
- Vln. 2: *ppp* (measures 57-58), *n.* (measure 58)
- Vla.: *ppp* pizz. (measures 57-58)
- Vc.: *ppp* pizz. (measures 57-58)
- D.B.: *ppp* pizz. (measures 57-58)

Ballades for four seasons  
SUMMER

Score in C

Man Ching Donald Yu

Flowing ♩ = 80

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B<sup>b</sup>

Bassoon

1.2. Horns in F

1.2. Trumpets in B<sup>b</sup>

Timpani

Soprano solo

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Fl.

Ob.

Bs. Cl.

Bsn.

1.2. Hn.

1.2. B<sup>b</sup> Tpt.

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mir - ror Lake out spread for miles and miles

9

Fl. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *6* *6*

Ob. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *6* *6*

B♭ Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *bend downwards* *6* *6*

Bsn. *p* *f*

1.2.Hn. *sfzp* *f*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *sfzp* *f*

Timp. *mp* *mp*

S. *The*

Vln. 1 *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f*

D.B. *p* *f*

12

Fl. *mp* *f*

Ob. *mp* *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

1.2.Hn. *fp* *f* *sfzp*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *fp* *f* *sfzp*

Timp. *fp* *f*

S. *f* *sf*  
 lo - tus li - lies in full blos - som teem

Vln. 1 *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *f*

D.B. *p* *f* *p* *f*

15 16 19

Fl. *p* *f* *p*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *p* *f* *p*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn. *f* *p* *pp*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *f* *p* *f* *f* *p* *p* *pp*

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1 *p* *pp*

Vln. 2 *p* *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

*bend downwards*

II. *pp*

II. *pp*

21 22

Fl. *pp* *p*

Ob. *pp* *p*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p*

Bsn. *p*

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S. *p*  
In fifth moon Xi Shi ga - thers them with smiles

Vln. 1 *pp* *p*

Vln. 2 *pp* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

25 *pp* *mp* *f* *mf* *ff* *f*

Fl. *pp* *mp* *f*

Ob. *mp* *f*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *ff*

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *mf* *f*

Timp.

S *mp* *ff* *f*

Wat - chers o - ver - whelm the bank of yo - ya Stream her boat turns back

Vln. 1 *ff* *f*

Vln. 2 *ff* *f*

Vla. *pizz.* *p* *ff* *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *ff* *pizz.*

D.B. *p* *ff* *pizz.*

30 *mp* *p* *p* *p* *p*

Fl. *mp* *p*

Ob. *p*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *p*

Bsn. *p*

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *mp* *p*

Timp.

S *mp* *p*

with - out wai - ting moon - rise To ro - yal house a - mid a - mo - rous sights.

Vln. 1 *p* *p*

Vln. 2 *p* *p*

Vla. *p* *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *arco* *p*

D.B. *p* *arco* *p*

Musical score for orchestra, measures 37-40. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horns (1.2. Hn.), Trumpets (1.2. B♭ Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Snare Drum (S), Violins (Vln. 1, Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.).

Measures 37-40 show a complex orchestral texture. The woodwinds (Fl., Ob., B♭ Cl., Bsn.) feature intricate melodic lines with slurs and dynamic markings such as *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*. The strings (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vc., D.B.) provide a rhythmic and harmonic foundation, with some parts marked *ppp* and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The percussion (Timp., S) remains silent throughout this passage.

# Ballades for four seasons

## AUTUMN

♩ = 72 Sorrow

Musical score for measures 1-10 of the piece 'Sorrow'. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 72 beats per minute. It features a variety of instruments including Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B♭, Bassoon, Horns in F, Trumpets in B♭, Timpani, Violin 1 & 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The music is characterized by long, flowing lines with many slurs and dynamic markings such as *pp*, *p*, *ppp*, *fp*, and *n.* (noisy). Measure numbers 4, 7, and 10 are indicated at the top of the staves.

11 13

Musical score for measures 11-13. This section includes a vocal line for Soprano (S) with the lyrics: "Moon - light is spread all o - ver the ca - pi - tal". The vocal line is marked with *p* and *pp*. The instrumental accompaniment includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horns (1.2.Hn.), Trumpets (1.2.B♭ Tpt.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Via.), Cello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D.B.). The instrumental parts feature complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and triplets, with dynamic markings like *pp* and *ppp*. Performance instructions such as *non div.*, *sul pont.*, and *div.* are present.

15 16

Fl. *pp*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *pp*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

18 19 22 25

Fl. *p* *pp*

Ob. *p* *pp*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. *fp* *pp* *fp* *f*

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *fp*

Timp. *p* *p* *mp* *p*

S. The sound of bea-ting clothes far and near

Vln. 1 *ord.* *p* *f*

Vln. 2 *ord.* *p* *f*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*



26 28 31

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. *pp*

1.2.Hn. *fp* *pp*

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S *p* *p* *mp*  
 Is brought by au-tumn wind which can't blow all The long-ings a-way for far-off fron-tier when can we van-quist the

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

33 34 37

Fl. *p* *f* *fp* *f fp* *f fp* *f fp*

Ob. *fp* *f fp* *f* *fp* *f*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *f fp* *f fp* *f fp*

Bsn. *p* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

1.2.Hn. *fp* *f* *fp*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *fp* *f* *p* *f* *fp* *f*

Timp.

S *mf* *f* *f*  
 bar-ba-ri-an foe So that our men no lon-ger in-to bat-tle go?

Vln. 1 *fp* *f*

Vln. 2 *mp* *fp* *mf* *fp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *f*

D.B. *mp* *f*

38 40 43 46

Fl. *ff* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp*

Ob. *mp* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *mp* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp*

Bsn. *f* *p* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp*

1.2.Hn. *ff* *fp* *pp*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *ff* *fp* *pp*

Timp.

S. *ff*

Vln. 1 *non div.* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp*

Vln. 2 *non div.* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp*

Vla. *unis.* *R.unis.* *pp* *Div.*

Vc. *p* *pp* *Div.* *div. a3*

D.B. *p* *pp*

47 49

Fl. *pp*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. *pp*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1 *sul pont* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. 2 *sul pont* *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *sul pont* *pp* *ppp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B.

50 52

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

54 55

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp.

S.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

# Ballades for four seasons WINTER

♩ = 76 *Mysteriously*

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

1.2.Horns in F

1.2 Trumpets in B $\flat$

Timpani

Soprano solo

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B $\flat$  Tpt.

Timp.

S

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

The cou-ri-er will de-part next day she has told

She sews a war-rior's gown all night

Her fin-gers feel the

18 19 22

Fl. *p* *f*

Ob.

Bs. Cl. *p* *f*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn.

1.2.B>Tpt. *p* *f*

Timp.

S. *p* *f*  
 nee-dle cold \_\_\_\_\_ How can she hold the sci-sors tight \_\_\_\_\_

Vln. 1 *p*

Vln. 2 *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

D.B. *p*

23 25

Fl. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Bs. Cl. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Bsn.

1.2.Hn. *p* *mp* *f*

1.2.B>Tpt. *p* *f*

Timp.

S. *p* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *mp* *f*  
 The work is done \_\_\_\_\_ she sends it far a way \_\_\_\_\_ When will it reach the town \_\_\_\_\_

Vln. 1 *p* *mp*

Vln. 2 *p* *mp*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

D.B. *p* *mp*

27 28 31 34

Fl. *sfz* *fp* *f*

Ob. *fp* *f* *p* *f*

B♭ Cl. *p* *f* *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f* *p* *f*

1.2.Hn. *a2.*

1.2.B♭ Tpt. *a2.* *p* *f*

Timp. *mf* *fp* *sfz*

S. *f* *f* *fff*  
 where war - riors stay

Vln. 1 *mp* *f* *fp*

Vln. 2 *mp* *f* *fp*

Vla. *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *p*

D.B. *p* *f* *p*

36 37 40 43 46

Fl.

Ob. *p* *sfz*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

1.2.Hn. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp*

1.2.B♭ Tpt.

Timp. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

S.

Vln. 1 *pp* *pp* *n.*

Vln. 2 *pp* *pp* *n.*

Vla. *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *pizz.* *ppp*

D.B. *pp* *ppp*