

Evaluation of Bachelor's theses

The Chinese composer Tan Dun and his compositions for harp

Student: Yip Yun Ching

The Bachelor's theses of Yip Yun Ching is named *The Chinese composer Tan Dun and his compositions for harp*.

In three chapters the student is introducing us to the life and work of Tan Dun with an accent on his pieces for the harp.

The first chapter is dedicated to Tan Dun's life which was very much influenced by the political situation in China, also in this same chapter Yip is analyzing 3 pieces which were written for the harp: In Distance, Circle with Four Trios, Conductor and Audience, Nu Shu – The Secret Songs of Women. The student is giving to us some main information about each piece - the date of premiere, structure and general idea.

The more detailed analysis is done on the piece Nu Shu. Very interesting explanation of harp and vocal part balance, description of different technical elements of the harp technique composer is using, and all this is followed by music examples.

The second chapter is dedicated to introducing us to how Tan Dun was incorporating philosophical and cultural tradition into his pieces. Yip is explaining the strong influence of Taoism, and also concepts of silence, interconnection and sound of organic instruments.

In the Third chapter the student is analyzing Asian musical features in the named pieces such as: pentatonic scale, using of eastern percussions, making western instruments sound eastern-imitation eastern timbres, ornamentations...

The theses of Yip Yun Ching I find very interesting not only for discovering to us a new composer and closely explaining the composing style of Tan Dun, but also it should be a motivation for other students to do similar researches for their own final works.

Questions for discussion:

- Did you play any of the Tan Dun pieces and what is your experience with his music from the aspect of performer?
- How did you discover Tan Dun's music?

I recommend this Master's thesis to the state exam and suggest "A" as a mark.

In Prague 1.9.2020

MgA. Ana Brateljević, Ph.D.