

Taiwan Fantasia

composed by John van Deursen
(after two Taiwanese songs)

"Taiwan Fantasia" was commissioned as an orchestral piece by the Taipei Sinfonietta and premiered on January 3rd 1995, at the National Concert Hall, Taipei, with John van Deursen conducting. The orchestral version is titled "Variations on a Taiwanese Melody" but this was changed to "Taiwan Fantasia" when the work was revised for brass quintet in 1998. Many thanks to Mr. Yeh Shu-Han, leader of the Yeh Shu Han Brass Quintet, who agreed to record this original work with the group.

It is a short fantasia based on two melodies from Taiwan. The songs are: "Yeh Yueh Cho" (trans: Moonlight Sorrow) by Deng Yu-Shen and the lullaby "Yi ya Yi ya Quin" by Liu Chuan-Shen.

Western harmony is combined with Chinese melody, and the rhythms of Taiwan's street festivals can be heard. The piece is in one continuous movement, but is divided into seven short sections:

- 1) Introduction: fanfare, fast and exciting music.
- 2) Theme: "Moonlight Sorrow."
- 3) Variation I: a short trumpet call begins this variation where modern harmonies paint a backdrop for a halting melody.
- 4) Variation II: an ostinato accompaniment behind a beautiful melody for the horn. A trumpet cadenza marks the end of Variation II.
- 5) Variation III: similar in style to the introduction, with a new melody first by the trombone, then the trumpet. The full sound of the quintet stops abruptly but the trombone continues with a cadenza that gradually subsides and brings us to the Interlude.
- 6) Interlude: "Lullaby"
- 7) Coda: a return to the fast-paced excitement of the introduction and the melody from Variation III.

About the Taiwan Fantasia, van Deursen states: "After having lived in Taipei for a number of years, I learned many of the local folk and popular songs. Some of the melodies are exceptionally beautiful, and my idea was to somehow combine all the elements that have made up my musical experiences over these years - chinese melodies, western orchestral music and jazz; I wanted to see if these songs could "survive" with a totally different harmonic structure and concept. My original goal was to write a simple arrangement of the two songs, but quickly I discovered more melodies building upon the original ones and thus the Variations were born."

A recording of Taiwan Fantasia can be purchased on iTunes on the album "Yeh Shu Han Brass Quintet".

Taiwan Fantasia

Full Score

for Brass Quintet

Composed by John van Deursen
(based on traditional Taiwanese songs)

Allegro con spirito ♩ = 144

Trumpet 1 in B♭

Trumpet 2 in B♭

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

ff fp p f fp f

ff p f p f

ff p f p f

ff p f p f

ff p f p f

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p f p f

p f p f

p f p f

p f p f

p f p f

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p f p f mp ff

p f p f mp ff

p f p f mp ff

p f p f mp ff

p f p f mp ff

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B Moderato cantabile ♩ = 86

21 *solo* **C**

The musical score is written for five instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The score is in 2/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Moderato cantabile' with a quarter note equal to 86 beats per minute. The score is divided into two sections, B and C, with a 'solo' marking above the first staff. The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

Tpt. 1
mf *f* *mf*

Tpt. 2
mf *mf*

Hn.
f *mf* *f* *mf*

Tbn.
f *mf* *f* *mf*

Tba.
f *f* *mf*



mf

mf

Variation II
G Piu mosso

accel. . . .

60

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

mp

mp

solo

mp

f

mp

f

f

mp

74

H

rit.

I Trumpet 1 cadenza

Tpt. 1

f *mp* *p*

Tpt. 2

f *mp*

Hn.

f *mp*

Tbn.

f *mp*

Tba.

f *mp*

81

Tpt. 1

ff *mf* *ff* *p*

Tpt. 2

128

□ Trombone cadenza

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

solo - Cadenza

ff *sfz* *sfz* *f* *mf*

Lyricaly

Detailed description: This system covers measures 128 and 129. The Tbn. part is the focus, starting with a 'solo - Cadenza' marking. The first measure has a dynamic of *ff* and a fermata. The second measure has a dynamic of *sfz* and a fermata. The third measure has a dynamic of *sfz* and a fermata. The fourth measure has a dynamic of *f* and a fermata. The fifth measure has a dynamic of *mf* and a fermata. The Tbn. part is marked 'Lyricaly'.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p *mf* *p* *mf*

marcato (in contrast)

(continue lyrical/marcato contrast)

Detailed description: This system covers measures 130 and 131. The Tbn. part is the focus, starting with a dynamic of *p* and a fermata. The second measure has a dynamic of *mf* and a fermata. The third measure has a dynamic of *p* and a fermata. The fourth measure has a dynamic of *mf* and a fermata. The Tbn. part is marked 'marcato (in contrast)' and '(continue lyrical/marcato contrast)'. The Tbn. part is marked 'marcato (in contrast)'.

198 Y

Musical score for measures 198-203. The score is for five brass instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt., Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 198 is marked with a circled 'Y'. The Tpt. 1 part features a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The Tpt., Hn., and Tbn. parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Tba. part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

204 Z *tr*

Musical score for measures 204-208. The score is for five brass instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt., Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 204 is marked with a circled 'Z' and a trill (*tr*) symbol. Dynamics include *sub. p*, *ff*, and *fp*. The Tpt. 1, Tpt., and Hn. parts have long, sustained notes with trills. The Tbn. and Tba. parts play eighth-note accompaniment.

209

Musical score for measures 209-213. The score is for five brass instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt., Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measure 209 features triplets in the Tpt. 1, Tpt., and Hn. parts. Dynamics include *p*, *sub. p*, and *ff*. The Tpt. 1, Tpt., and Hn. parts play melodic lines with triplets. The Tbn. and Tba. parts play eighth-note accompaniment.