

Zi-Jun Wang

This composition is inspired by two traditional Taiwanese Hakka folk songs: "Old Mountain Song" (老山歌) and "siib bad` mia ´" (十八摸). These tunes were chosen to contrast the primitive, natural world with the lively, human aspect of folk music, showcasing the diverse styles of Hakka music. "Old Mountain Song" is the most primitive form of Hakka folk music, originally used for communication between mountain dwellers, characterized by long notes and simple harmonics. In contrast, "siib bad` mia ´" is a lively tune depicting a man's pursuit of a fair lady, filled with joyful rhythms and vivid movements. The piece is divided into three sections. The first section introduces "Old Mountain Song" with a misty, obscure accompaniment, using long notes and simple harmonics to imitate the mountainous landscape. The second section develops motifs from this melody, incorporating contemporary harmonics and varied rhythms that convey the tune's underlying sorrow. The final section shifts to a lively, dance-like rhythm, introducing the joyful spirit of "siib bad` mia ´." This part blends traditional folk harmonies with modern, slightly sarcastic interruptions, mimicking the vibrancy of a folk dance. The piece concludes with the return of "Old Mountain Song," leading to a jubilant and vivid ending.

Biography

I was born in 2009 and began my musical journey at the age of three, starting with piano lessons and continuing as a piano major until I was nine. My passion for music led me to start composing at nine, and by ten, I had completed my first self-taught piece, a piano concerto movement. Afterwards, I studied under Liu Chih-Hsuan from ages 10 to 12, and have since been under the tutelage of Fan Li-Pin. I have twice secured the 1st prize in the composition category at The Taiwan National Student Competition of Music. I was recommended to enter the music program of the Affiliated High School of Taiwan Normal University and have been studying as a composition major there ever since. In addition to my musical pursuits, I have developed a strong proficiency in computer programming, earning three MTA certificates in various programming languages.

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