

Daniel Cui

Jasmine Flower (2023)

For SATB Choir and Percussion

Percussion 1:

Marimba, Chinese Gong (Small)

Percussion 2:

Slapstick (Small), Woodblock

Program Notes:

'Jasmine Flower' is a famous Chinese folk tune originated around the area of my hometown Nanjing. The most well-known appearance of this folk tune in the western art music canon is the opera 'Turandot' by Verdi. As a composer who grew up in the city of Nanjing, I had always intended to adapt this tune into my own work.

Original tune:

好 一 朵 美 麗 的 茉 莉 花 好 一 朵 美 麗 的 茉 莉 花
Hao yi duo mei li di mo li hua. Hao yi duo mei li di mo li hua.

5
芬 芳 美 麗 滿 枝 極 香 又 白 人 人 誇
Fen fang mei li man zhi ya, you xiang you bai ren ren kua.

9
讓 我 來 將 你 摘 下 送 給 別 人 家 茉 莉 花 呀 茉 莉 花
Rang wo lai jiang ni zhai xia, song gei bie ren jia, mo li hua ya mo li hua.

Text Translation:

Flower of jasmine, so fair!
Flower of jasmine, so fair!
Budding and blooming here and there,
Pure and fragrant all do declare.
Let me pick you with tender care,
Sweetness for all to share.
Jasmine fair, oh Jasmine fair.

Chinese Pinyin:

Hao yi duo mei li di mo li hua
Hao yi duo mei li di mo li hua
Fen fang mei li man zhi ya
You xiang you bai ren ren kua
Rang wo lai jiang ni zhai xia
Song gei bie ren jia
Mo li hua ya, mo li hua

Instead of treating the tune as an entity, my approach is to divide the tune into different phrases and emphasize the meaning of the text. Correspondingly, the meaning of each phrase is captured by dramatic (occasionally extreme) and contrasting musical materials. In some occasions, the original melody can be heard clearly, but in most cases, the original tune is treated as fragments

which drive the motivic developments of this work. Harmonically, colors are of emphasis instead of traditional functions. The text of this work is written in Chinese Pinyin, as the piece should be sung in the language of Chinese.

The piece is in three main sections. The opening section starts free and aleatoric, repeating the first two lines of the text, creating a mysterious atmosphere, as if the appearance of the jasmine flower is slowly unveiled. It gradually builds up into a huge tutti sound, as the text moves on to the third line, praising the pure beauty of the jasmine flower. It is then erupted by the percussions which marks the start of the middle section. The percussion duo that starts this section feature instruments and rhythmic motives inspired by traditional Chinese opera, more specifically, the Nanjing style of opera, which always highlights specific percussions and rhythms. In terms of the text, the entire middle section repeats only two words 'Let me!'. It is the only time in the text where the first-person view ('me') is addressed. The intention behind this middle section is to express the excitement from 'me' when seeing such beauty of the jasmine flower. As the drama builds up into an extreme, the music suddenly becomes soft and sweet at the beginning of the last section, as the text moves on to 'pick you with tender care'. The ending section features many cases of 'wordplays' that emphasize on the meanings of 'tender care, sweetness, all to share'. Finally, the piece ends with text repeating the name of the flower 'jasmine, jasmine...' as the music slow decays.

This work is not only a praise to the beauty of jasmine flower, but also my personal expression of love and gratitude to the city of Nanjing, where I was born and raised. In this case, the jasmine flower for me, is a representation of my hometown. Nanjing is city of profound history, great liveliness, and sheer beauty, as represented by the three sections of this work. For me, there is nothing more fitting than expressing my love to my city with my own adaptations of a folk tune that is originated from there, and I wish to share this love with this piece of music.

Jasmine Flower

For SATB Choir and Percussion

♩ = 60 Free

Daniel Cui

(two altos) enter individually, repeat ad lib. w/ free tempo

pp
mei li di

enter individually, repeat ad lib. w/ free tempo

pp
hao yi duo mo li hua

approximately 30 seconds

pp
Mm

move individually

p
mo

approximately 30 seconds

pp
Mm

move individually

p
mo

Chinese Gong (small)

Marimba

Slapstick

Wood Block

move on individually,
complete the previous material

S1 *p* hao yi duo mo li hua

move on individually,
complete the previous material

S2 *p* hao yi duo mei li di

move on individually,
complete the previous material

A1 *p* mo li hua

move on individually,
complete the previous material

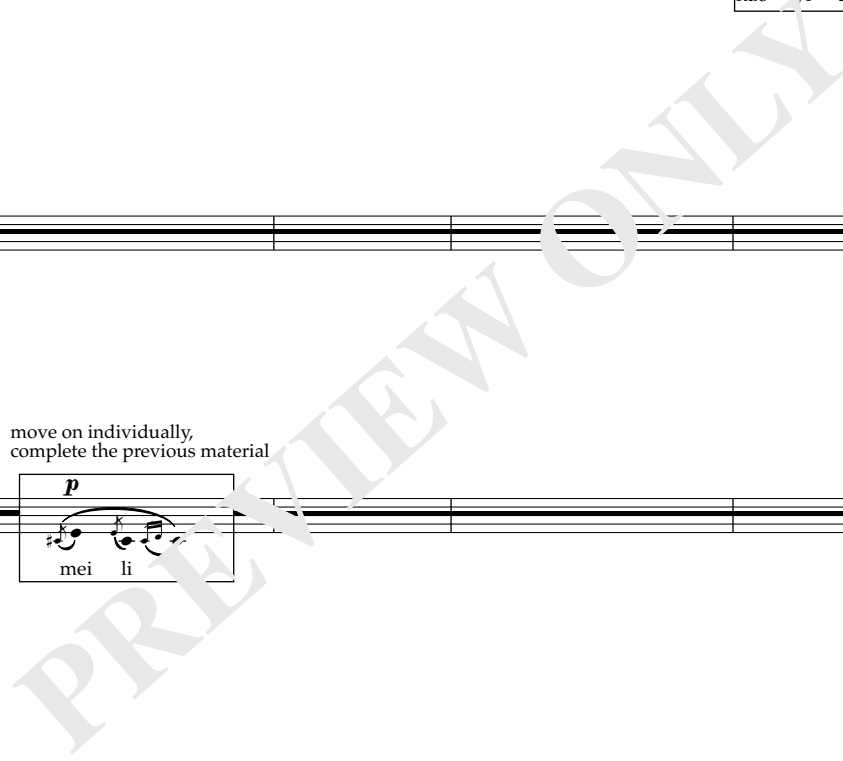
A2 (two S1s) *p* mei li

move individually

T. *mf* *f* *p* *mp* li li

move individually

B. *mf* *f* *p* *mp* li li



move on individually,
complete the previous material

molto rit. 3

S1 *p* hao yi duo mei li di *mp* mei li di

S2 *mp* mei li di

A1 *mp* Mm *mf* mo li

A2 *p* mo li ta *mp* Mm *mf* mo li

T. *fp* Hoo *mp* Aa

B. *fp* Hoo *mp* Aa

PREVIEW ONLY

S1 *fp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 Hoo_____ Aa_____ Hoo Aa_____ Hoo Aa you xiang you bai_____

S2 *fp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*
 Hoo_____ Aa_____ Hoo Aa_____ Hoo Aa you xiang you bai_____

A1 *fp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*
 Hoo_____ Aa_____ Hoo Aa_____ Hoo Aa_____

A2 *fp* *mf* *p* *mp* *p*
 Hoo_____ Aa_____ Hoo Aa_____ Hoo Aa_____

T1 *f* *mp* *f* *f* *mp* *p* *mp*
 fen lang mei li__ man i va you xiang you bai__ ren ren__ kua_____ you xiang

T2 *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp*
 fen fang__ mei li_____ you xiang__ you bai ren ren kua_____ you xianh

B1 *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*
 fen fang__ mei li_____ you xiang__ you bai ren ren kua_____

B2 *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*
 fen fang__ mei li_____ you xiang__ you bai ren ren kua_____

S1 *p* *mf* *mp* *pp*
 ren ren kua ren ren kua

S2 *p* *mf* *mp* *pp*
 ren ren kua ren ren kua

A1 *mf* *mp* *pp*
 ren ren kua ren ren kua

A2 *mf* *mp* *pp*
 ren ren kua ren ren kua

T1 *p* *mf* *mp* *pp*
 you bai ren ren kua ren ren kua

T2 *p* *c* *mp* *pp*
 you bai re ren kua ren ren kua

B1 *mf* *mp* *pp*
 ren ren kua ren ren kua

B2 *mf* *mp* *pp*
 ren ren kua ren ren kua

Mar. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *p*
 w/bow

25

Gong

Mar.

Slap.

W.B.

f

f

mp

f

f

mp

f

35

Gong

Slap.

W.B.

fp

f

fp

f

fp

f

38

S.

A.

T.

B.

Gong

Slap.

W.B.

fp

f

fp

mf

f

rang

ng

rang

ng

rang

ng

rang

ng

rang

ng

rang

ng

fp

mf

f

fp

mf

f

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ng

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fp

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fp

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f

fp

mf

f

rang

ng

rang

ng

fp

mf

f

fp

mf

f

rang

ng

rang

ng

43

S1 *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 wo wo lai rang wo lai

S2 *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 wo wo lai rang wo lai lai

A1 *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 ra-ng ra-ng rang wo lai rang

A2 *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 ra-ng ra-ng ra wo la

T1 *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 ra-ng ra-ng lai rang wo lai wo

T2 *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 ra-ng ra-ng lai rang wo lai wo

B1 *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 wo wo rang wo lai rang

B2 *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *p* *f*
 wo wo rang wo lai lai

Gong *f* *f*

Slap. *f* *mp*

W.B. *f* *mp*

52

S. *mf*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

A. *mf*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

T. *mf*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang

B. *mf*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo

Gong *f* *mf*

Slap. *f* *mf*

W.B. *f* *mf*

55

S. *f*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang

A. *f*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

T. *f*
wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

B. *f*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

Gong *f*

Slap. *f*

W.B. *f*

59

S. *p* *fp* *mf*
 wo lai_ rang wo lai rang wo lai_ rang woi rang woi rang woi rang woi rang wo

A. *fp* *mf*
 rang wo lai rang wo lai_ rang woi rang woi rang woi rang wo lai_ rang wo

T. *fp* *mf*
 rang wo lai rang wo lai_ rang woi rang woi rang woi rang wo lai_ rang wo

B. *p* *fp* *mf*
 rang wo lai rang wo lai_ rang woi rang woi rang woi rang woi rang wo

Gong

Slap.

W.B. *fp*

62

S. *f* *fp* *f* *fp*
 lai rang wo lai rang woi rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang_ ng

A. *f* *fp* *f* *p*
 lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

T. *f* *fp* *f* *fp*
 lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang_ ng

B. *f* *fp* *f* *p*
 lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang woi rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

Gong

Slap. *mp* *f*

W.B. *f* *mp* *f*

67 *fp* *fp* *fp*

S. rang _____ ng rang _____ ng lai _____

A. rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

T. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*
rang _____ ng rang _____ ng wo _____ lai

B. rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang v lai

Gong

Slap. *p*

W.B. *p*

72 *mf* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

S. rang ng wo lai rang ng wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

A. rang ng wo lai rang ng wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

T. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

B. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*
rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

Gong *mf*

Slap. *mf*

W.B. *mf*

75

S. *f* rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

A. *f* rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

T. *mf* *f* rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

B. *mf* *f* rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai rang wo lai

Gong

Slap. *f*

W.B. *f*

77

S. *ff* rang wo lai *p* rang ng wo lai *mp* rang ng *mf*

A. *ff* rang wo lai *p* rang ng wo lai *mp* rang ng *mf*

T. *ff* rang wo lai *p* rang ng wo lai *mp* rang ng *mf*

B. *ff* rang wo lai *p* rang ng wo lai *mp* rang ng *mf*

Gong *p* *f* *rit.* $\frac{3}{4}$

Slap. *ff* $\frac{3}{4}$

W.B. *ff* $\frac{3}{4}$

82

f *p* *ff*

S. wo lai rang ng wo lai

A. wo lai rang ng wo lai

T. wo lai rang ng wo lai

B. wo lai rang ng wo lai

Gong

Slap.

W.B.

90

pp *p*

S. jiang ni zhai

A. jiang ni zhai xia

T. jiang ni zhai xia

B. jiang ni zhai xia

solo *p*

rang wo lai jiang

jiang ni zhai xia Mm

jiang ni zhai xia Mm

97

ppp *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

S. zhai xia zhai xia zhai xia zhai xia

A. ni zhai xia zhai xia zhai xia zhai xia

T. jiang ni zhai xia

B. jiang ni zhai xia

rit.

unis. *pp*

♩ = 56 Warm

13

S1 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 gei Mm mo li hua mo li hua ya

S2 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 en Mm mo li hua mo li hua ya

A1 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 ei Mm mei li hua mo li hua ya

A2 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 song Mm mei li di mo li hua ya

T1 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 ren Mm mo li hua mo li hua ya

T2 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 ie Mm mo li hua mo li hua ya

B1 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 bie Mm mo li hua mo li hua ya

B2 *pp* *p* *f* *ff*
 jia Mm mo li hua mo li hua ya

Mar. *p* *mp* *f* *ff*
 (Piano accompaniment)

112 *mp* *p*

S. mo li hua free oo - aa - oo

A. mo li hua free oo - aa - oo

T. mo li hua free oo - aa - oo

B. mo li hua free oo - aa - oo

Mar. *p* *mp* *p*



117 *pp* *p* *ppp*

S. Hoo Aa

A. Hoo Aa *ppp*

T. Hoo Aa *ppp*

B. Hoo Aa *ppp*

Gong *pp* *p* *ppp* *pp*

Slap. *p* *pp*

W.B. *p* *pp*