

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)

Van Deursen - Taiwan Fantasia

3

B **Moderato cantabile** ♩ = 86

21

solo C

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

2

mf ——————

Variation II

G Piu mosso

accel.

60

accel.

G Piu mosso

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

74

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

H

rit.

I Trumpet 1 cadenza

This musical score page shows five staves of music for brass instruments. The first four staves (Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn.) are in E-flat major (three flats) and the fifth staff (Tba.) is in C major (no sharps or flats). Measure 74 begins with dynamic *f*. Measures 75-76 show dynamics *f* and *mp* respectively. Measure 77 starts with *rit.* (ritardando). Measure 78 begins the "Trumpet 1 cadenza" (labeled **I**) with dynamic *p*. The bassoon (Tba.) has sustained notes throughout the section.

81

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

This musical score page continues the trumpet cadenza from the previous page. The first staff (Tpt. 1) shows a complex melodic line with slurs and grace notes, starting at dynamic *ff*, followed by *mf*, then *ff* again, and finally *p*. The second staff (Tpt. 2) is mostly silent, with a few short notes.

128  Trombone cadenza

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

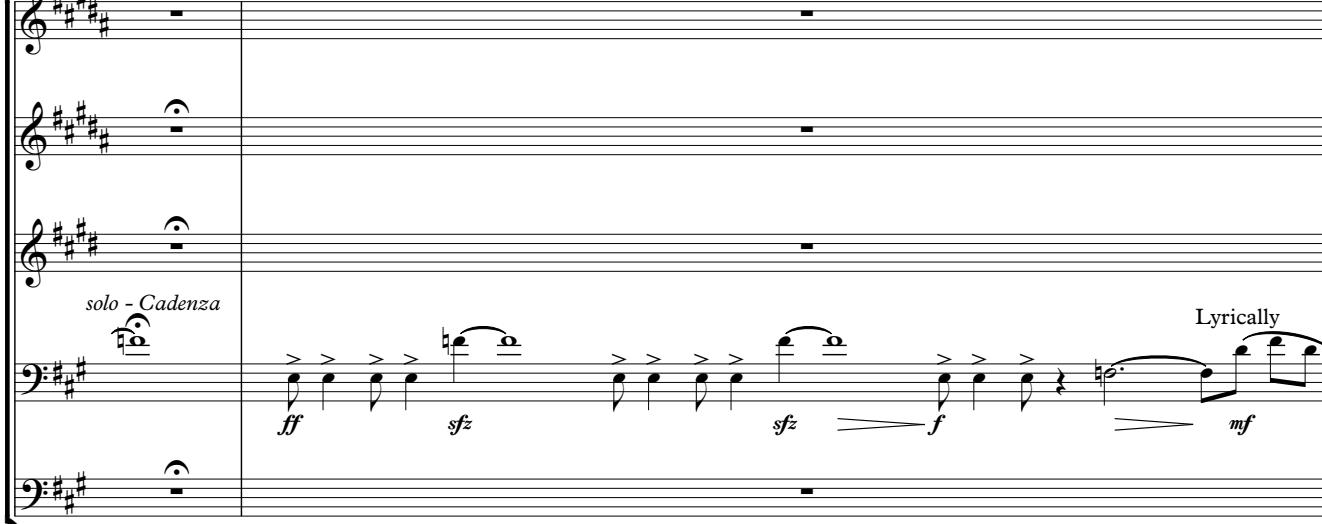
Hn.

Tbn. solo - Cadenza 

Tba.

ff sfz sfz f mf

Lyrically



130

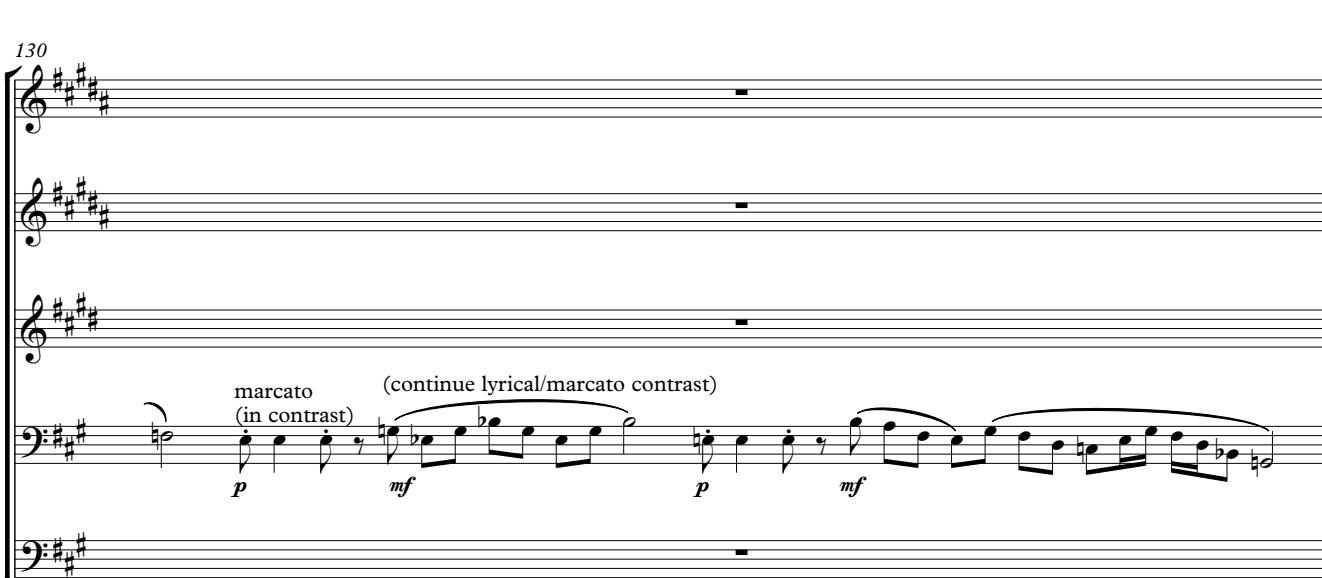
Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn. marcato (in contrast) (continue lyrical/marcato contrast) p mf p mf

Tba.



198 Y

Tpt. 1

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

204 Z *tr*

Tpt. 1

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

209

Tpt. 1

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.