

Abstract

„Specifics of Korean emotions in the vocal part of Sim Tjong in the Sim Tjong opera composed by Isang Yuna”

PhD thesis

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I have lived, studied and performed concerts in Europe for the past 10 years and during all this time I have been working on understanding the western music. Many people claim that it is not fully possible for a person of Eastern origins. I don't understand this way of thinking. For many years I have been trying to understand the mentality of Western people and struggling with difficulties arising in common understanding. My experiences have resulted in a work set around the „Sim Tjong” opera by Isang Yun. During this work I try to explain the way in which eastern elements find their place and reflection in western music, as well as the accompanying emotions. Isang Yun was a world-class modern music composer. At the age of 40 he went to study in the West, but due to the political reasons he couldn't come back to the country of his ancestors. The identity of his music is set the memories from the childhood and youth period, as well as his longing for the homeland. He has been named the first composer, who due to rich life experience on foreign land, was able to implement both eastern and western elements to his music.

The Sim Tjong opera was written for the opening of the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. I chose this piece for the detailed analysis because of the libretto, which was written by the Korean man in German language, which made it more understandable for the Europeans.

In discussing the „Sim Tjong” I take a trial to show how the western music language and expression techniques dealt with the expression of Korean emotions.

I chose eight scenes from the Sim Tjong opera which in my opinion are especially important, because of the emotions contained in them. I also presented them in arrangement for two pianos. I hope that my work will help to understand the operas of Isang Run and that they will be staged on polish music arena. I would like it to be a helpful communicative tool, as well as influence on the common understanding between polish and Korean students and professors.