

Zhou Tian

PETALS OF FIRE

(2017)

Duration: ca. 5:45 minutes

Instrumentation*

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

4 Clarinets in B-flat

Bass Clarinet

2 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

2 Alto Saxophones in E-flat

Tenor Saxophone in B-flat

Baritone Saxophone in E-flat

4 Trumpets in B-flat

4 French Horns in F

2 Trombones

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Contrabass

Piano, Celesta (1 player)

Harp

Timpani

Percussion (four players)

1. Marimba, Xylophone
2. Snare Drum, Glockenspiel, Tam-tam
3. Cymbals (suspended, crash), Tuned Gongs (F, A-flat)
4. Bass Drum, Tam-tam, Suspended Cymbal

**The above is the minimum instrumentation. Additional players on flutes, clarinets, bass trombone, tuba, and contrabass are strongly recommended.*

- All grace notes: on the beat and always brisk
- Approach all tempi and rhythms with precision and clarity. Tempi are solely indicated with metronome numbers above the staff; mid-staff expression markings—such as *espress.* and *con brio*—do not affect the tempo.
- “Solo” indicates a passage of musical importance. Whether it is played by a single player or not, and when “Tutti” resumes, is left to the conductor’s discretion.

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Note: The composer’s family name is Zhou and his given name is Tian. When only the composer’s last name is listed, it should be listed as “Zhou.” The full name should be listed as “Zhou Tian.”

Petals of Fire is a fierce and colorful rhapsody inspired by American artist Cy Twombly's 1989 painting of the same title. Part of the work was adapted from a movement of my Concerto for Orchestra. I've always been interested in learning how artists mix different styles and techniques to create a unique, new look. Inspired by Twombly's attempt to combine text and color to express himself visually (literally, words are part of his painting, much like what Chinese painters did during the Song dynasty), I, as a composer, wanted to create a fusion of musical styles, harmony, and timbre, using a large wind ensemble. In a way, everyone in the ensemble is a "petal": together, the fire glows, disappears, and dances.

Petals of Fire was commissioned by Michigan State University Wind Symphony, Kevin Sedatole, Director of Bands, on the occasion of the ensemble's performance at the 2017 CBDNA National Convention.

— Zhou Tian

First performed on 16 March 2017,
at College Band Directors National Association National Convention,
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City, Missouri,
by Michigan State University Wind Symphony,
conducted by Kevin Sedatole

to Kevin Sedatole

PETALS OF FIRE

for wind ensemble

Zhou Tian

Vivo ♩ = 126

A

Piccolo

Flute 1 2

Oboe 1 2

Clarinet (B \flat) 1 2 3 4

Bass Clarinet (B \flat)

Bassoon 1 2

Contrabassoon

Alto Saxophone (E \flat) 1 2

Tenor Saxophone (B \flat)

Baritone Saxophone (E \flat)

Trumpet (B \flat) 1 2 3 4

Horn (F) 1 2 3 4

Trombone 1 2 3 (bass)

Euphonium

Tuba

Contrabass

Harp

Piano (Celesta)

Timpani

Percussion 1-4

Xylophone

Bass Drum

SAMPLE

Solo

sf

mf

p

p leggiero

Solo

p leggiero

Solo

Con sord.

pp

sfz

p leggiero

pizz.

(pizz. ord.)

8^{va}

Celesta

8^{va}

bend

f "virtuosic"

3

ff

3

poco rubato

6

1 Fl.

2 Fl.

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. (B \flat) 2

3 Cl. (B \flat) 4

B. Cl.

1 Bsn. 2

1 A. Sx. (E \flat) 2

T. Sx. (B \flat)

B. Sx. (E \flat)

1 Tpt. (B \flat) 2

3 Tpt. (B \flat) 4

1 Hn. (F) 2

Tbn. 3

Tuba

Cb.

Hp.

pf.

Timp.

Perc. 4

Tam-tam

ppp

pp *p* *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp dolce*

p *mp dolce*

p *mp dolce*

p *mp*

p *mp*

B

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. (B \flat) 1
Cl. (B \flat) 2
Cl. (B \flat) 3
Cl. (B \flat) 4
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
A. Sx. (E \flat) 1
A. Sx. (E \flat) 2
T. Sx. (B \flat) 1
T. Sx. (B \flat) 2
B. Sx. (E \flat)
Tpt. (B \flat) 1
Tpt. (B \flat) 2
Tpt. (B \flat) 3
Tpt. (B \flat) 4
Hn. (F) 1
Hn. (F) 2
Tbn. 3
Tuba
Cb.
Hp.
pf.
Timp.
Perc. 3

p 6 6
p 6 6
p
dim.
ppp
p 6
p 6
p
pp
p dim.
ppp
p dim.
ppp
p dim.
ppp
p dim.
ppp
Senza sord.
p elegant III
marc.
p elegant
marc.
pp
dim.
pp
pp
arco
pp
mp lush
pp 11 11
ppp
Sus. Cym.
ppp

19

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. (B \flat) 1
Cl. (B \flat) 2
Cl. (B \flat) 3
Cl. (B \flat) 4
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
Tpt. (B \flat) 1
Tpt. (B \flat) 2
Tpt. (B \flat) 3
Tpt. (B \flat) 4
Hn. (F) 1
Hn. (F) 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3
Euph.
Tuba
Cb.
Hp.
pf.
Timp.
Perc. 3

C Risoluto ♩ = 100

25

Picc.

1

FL.

2

Ob. 1

2

Cl. (B \flat)

1

2

3

4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. (E \flat)

1

2

T. Sx. (B \flat)

B. Sx. (E \flat)

Tpt. (B \flat)

1

2

3

4

Hn. (F)

1

2

3

4

Tbn.

1

2

3

Euph.

Tuba

Cb.

Hp.

pf.

10

12

Muta in Piano

Solo

f appassionato

3

(If D is not possible, gliss E to D right before rehearsal C)

ff

sfz

f

B.D.

mp

f

31

Picc.

1

2

Fl.

1

2

Ob. 1

2

Cl. (B \flat)

1

2

3

4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. (E \flat)

1

2

T. Sx. (B \flat)

B. Sx. (E \flat)

Tpt. (B \flat)

1

2

3

4

Hn. (F)

1

2

3

4

Tbn.

1

2

3

Euph.

Tuba

Cb.

Hp.

gliss

ff

11

ff

pf.

Timp.

Marimba

Perc.

1

2

3

4

stringendo poco a poco

D Allegretto, steady $\text{♩} = 112$

36

Picc. *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff*

1 Fl. *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff*

2 Fl. *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff*

Ob. 1 *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff*

2 Ob. *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff*

1 Cl. (B \flat) *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

2 Cl. (B \flat) *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

3 Cl. (B \flat) *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

4 Cl. (B \flat) *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

B. Cl. *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

Bsn. 1 *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

2 Bsn. *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

C. Bn. *mf stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

1 A. Sx. (E \flat) *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

2 A. Sx. (E \flat) *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

T. Sx. (B \flat) *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

B. Sx. (E \flat) *f* *f* *f marc.*

1 Tpt. (B \flat) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *mf marc. III*

2 Tpt. (B \flat) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *mf marc. III*

3 Tpt. (B \flat) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *mf marc. III*

4 Tpt. (B \flat) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *mf marc. III*

1 Hn. (F) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

2 Hn. (F) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff con fuoco*

3 Hn. (F) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff marc.*

4 Hn. (F) *p stacc.* *f* *f* *ff marc.*

1 Tbn. *p stacc.* *f* *f* *mf marc.*

2 Tbn. *p stacc.* *f* *f* *mf marc.*

3 Tbn. *p stacc.* *f* *f* *f marc.*

Euph. *f* *f* *f marc.*

Tuba *f* *f* *f marc.*

Cb. *arco* *mf* *ff con fuoco*

Hp. *ff*

Pf. *ff con fuoco*

Piano *ff con fuoco*

Timp. *sub. p* *mf* *ff* *f*

1 Perc. *f* *S.D.* *ff con fuoco*

2 Perc. *p* *f*

3 Perc. *p* *mf*

4 Perc. *f*

