

Zhou Tian

[b.1981]

FIRST SIGHT

for orchestra

(2007)

Duration: ca. 5:30 minutes

## INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo (=Flute 3)

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

English Horn

Clarinet in E-flat

2 Clarinets in B-flat

2 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F

3 Trumpets in C

3 Trombones

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (3 players):

Xylophone, Large Temple Bowl (or Tubular Bell),

Crash Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal,

Chinese Cymbal, Tam-tam,

Snare Drum, Bass Drum

Harp

Piano

Strings

*Performance materials & licensing*

FirstEdition.us

*Sound/video samples & complete list of works*

ZhouTianMusic.com

## Programme Note

Commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra on the occasion of the orchestra's centennial, "First Sight" is an exhilarating symphonic dance inspired by folk dances of the Dai people in China's Yunnan province. To capture the raw and mesmerizing movements of the dancers, the orchestra rises and falls through a combination of unusual rhythms and ever-changing intervals of seconds and thirds — almost sounding improvisational, and yet precise in execution and development. The slower dance in the middle of the piece is calm and lyrical, as if clearing the stage in the morning in anticipation of a new night of musical venture. The score calls for piccolo, 2 flutes, 2 oboes, English horn, clarinet in E-flat, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, tuba, timpani, percussion (3 players: xylophone, crash and suspended cymbals, Chinese cymbal, tamtam, large temple bowl, snare drum, bass drum), harp, piano, and strings.

—Zhou Tian

First performed 23 October 2007,  
at the Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota,  
by the Minnesota Orchestra,  
conducted by Sarah Hicks

Following a traditional spelling of Chinese-American artists, the composer's family name is Zhou and his given name is Tian. When only the composer's last name is listed in the program, it should be listed as "Zhou." The full name should be listed as "Zhou Tian."

Transposed score

Commissioned by the Minnesota Orchestra  
on the Occasion of the Orchestra's Centennial

# FIRST SIGHT

Zhou Tian

Allegro energico ♩ = 144

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It includes parts for the following instruments:

- Piccolo
- Flutes (I, II)
- Oboes (I, II)
- English Horn
- Clarinet (E<sup>b</sup>)
- Clarinet (B<sup>b</sup>) (I, II)
- Bassoons (I, II)
- Contrabassoon
- Horns (F) (I, II, III, IV)
- Trumpets (C) (I, II, III)
- Trombones (I, II, III)
- Tuba
- Timpani
- Percussion (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Crash Cym. (pair))
- Harp
- Pianoforte
- Violin (I, II)
- Viola
- Cello
- Contrabass

The score is marked with dynamic levels such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *f* (forte). Performance instructions include *div.* (divisi) for the Violin I part and *gliss on black keys* for the Piano. The tempo is indicated as *Allegro energico* with a metronome marking of ♩ = 144.

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