

Zhou Tian
[b.1981]

THE PALACE OF
NINE PERFECTIONS
(2004)

Duration: *ca.* 9 minutes

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo

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

2 Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (3 players):

1. Glockenspiel, Chimes, Snare Drum
2. Triangle, Large Bell or Large Temple Bowl, Suspended and Crash Cymbals, Slapstick
3. Crotale, Bass Drum, Tamtam, Triangle

Celesta

Harp

Strings

Performance materials & licensing

FirstEdition.us

Sound/video samples & complete list of works

ZhouTianMusic.com

Note: 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." Thank you.

Programme Note

The Palace of Nine Perfections was inspired by a painting under the same name by Yuan Jiang, believed to date from 1691. Though I learned about the painting growing up in China, it was not until 2003, when I first saw the real work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. I was immediately moved by it — the sumptuous color on silk depicts a Daoist paradise, and yet, there is something mystical, dark, embedded underneath. Inspired, I wanted to create a musical reaction to Yuan's vision, hoping we could see as well as hear *The Palace of Nine Perfections*. The work, consisting of three major parts, ranges from epic to extremely intimate. Through a lush orchestral palette, I sought to create a fusion of folkly musical elements and fresh approaches to orchestration and timbre.

—Zhou Tian

The Palace of Nine Perfections was awarded

- Winner, Minnesota Orchestra Composer Institute (+Commission Award)
- Winner, American Composers Orchestra Underwood New Music Readings
- Winner, Symphony in C Composers Awards
- Winner, ASCAP/Morton Gould Young Composer Awards

First performed 29 March 2004,
at the Field Concert Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,
by The Curtis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Benjamin Schwartz

Revised version first performed 8 March 2006,
at Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis, Minnesota,
by The Minnesota Orchestra conducted by Osmo Vänskä

SAMPLE PAGE

THE PALACE OF NINE PERFECTIONS

Zhou Tian

Vivo ♩ = 76

(flutter)

f con brio

Piccolo

f con brio

I

Flute

II

f con brio *sf* *ff*

f con brio *sf* *f*

(all grace notes on the beat)

mp 4 4 4

Oboe

I

II

mp

English Horn

mf 2

Clarinet (E_b)

f *con brio*

Clarinet (B_b)

I

II

mp *ff con brio* *ff con brio*

Bassoon

I

II

mp *f*

Glockenspiel

Percussion

Triangle

pp

Celesta

mf *fp* *fp*

Harp

mp

Vivo ♩ = 76

Solo

mp espress. 2

Violin

I

II

ppp *mp pizz. div.* *mp*

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass