

# *a* Thousand

Years *of* Good

Prayers

for orchestra  
(reduced instrumentation)

Zhou Tian

| FIRST EDITION PRESS |

# Zhou Tian

[b.1981]

## A Thousand Years *of Good Prayers*

(2009)

Duration: ca. 9 minutes

Commissioned by  
The Green Bay Symphony Orchestra

INSTRUMENTATION

(reduced instrumentation)

2 Flutes

Oboes

English Horn

2 Clarinets in B-flat

2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in C

3 Trombones

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion (2 players):

1: Vibraphone, Tam-tam, Suspended cymbal

2: Bass drum (optional)

Harp

Piano (optional)

Strings

ALSO AVAILABLE

Original scoring: 3(picc) . 3(corA) . 3(Eb.Cl) . 3(cbn) / 4331 / timp / 3 perc:

vibraphone, suspended cymbal, crash cymbal, tam-tam, bass drum / hp / cel / str

*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 inspiration of “A Thousand Years of Good Prayers” came from an old Chinese proverb under the same title. The proverb roughly means a good relationship between two people would take a thousand years of good prayers to bring about. As a composer I was fascinated by this story-like idea from an ancient time, and I wanted to create a piece to convey a sense of spiritual blessing. The work opens with soli French horns before unfolding into a walking pace with layers of expanded orchestration. As the music rises and falls, the layers are thinned out gradually. In the end, the piece reaches a strong sense of transparency and clarity. The opening materials are then returned in an unfamiliar way. I regard the piece as a musical journey. It goes from a somewhat rough start to a simple, harmonious closure.

“A Thousand Years of Good Prayers” was commissioned by the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra with generous support from the Green Bay Commissioning Club.

—Zhou Tian

*“A Thousand Years of Good Prayers” was awarded The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Glick Award in 2010.*

First performed 9 October 2009,  
at the Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay, Wisconsin,  
by the Green Bay Symphony Orchestra,  
conducted by Christoph Campestrini

Transposed Score  
(reduced instrumentation)

# A THOUSAND YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS

Zhou Tian

Maestoso ♩ = 63-69

Flutes I II

Oboe

English Horn

Clarinets (B $\flat$ ) I II

Bassoons I II

Horns (F) I II III IV

Trumpets (C) I II

Trombones I II III

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion I II (optional)

Harp

Pianoforte (optional)

Violin I II

Viola

Cello

Contrabass

Maestoso ♩ = 63-69

Maestoso ♩ = 63-69

**J** *Meno mosso, warmly* ♩ = 56

87

Fl. *f* *ff* *p espress.*

Ob. *f* *ff* *p espress.*

E. Hn. *f* *ff* *p espress.*

Cl. (B $\flat$ ) *f* *ff* *p*

Bsn. *f* *ff* *p*

Hn. (F) *f* *p* III *p*

Tbn. e Tub. *f*

Timp.

Perc. I

Hp.

Pf. *f con brio*

**J** *Meno mosso, warmly* ♩ = 56

Vn. I *f* *mf* *pp* arco unis.

Vn. II *f* *mf*

Va. div. *f molto sonore e legato*

Vc. div. *f molto sonore e legato*

Cb. *f*