

Zhou Tian

A THOUSAND YEARS OF GOOD PRAYERS

(2009)

Duration: ca. 9 minutes

Instrumentation

3 Flutes (3rd doubling Piccolo)

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 (2 players):

1. Tubular Bells, Vibraphone, Suspended Cymbal, Tam-tam
2. Bass Drum

Harp

Piano

Strings

Also available

Scoring B (reduced orchestra): 2222 / 4231 / timp / 2 perc / (hp) / str

Scoring C (chamber orchestra): 2222 / 2200 / timp / 1 perc / (hp) / str

The inspiration for *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers* comes from an old Chinese proverb of the same name. It suggests that a good relationship takes a thousand years of prayers to bring about. As a composer, I was fascinated by this story-like idea from ancient times and sought to create a piece that conveys a sense of spiritual blessing. The work opens with a thunderous bass drum hit and soaring horn lines before unfolding into a walking pace with interwoven layers of sound. As the music rises and falls, the textures gradually thin out, leading to a sense of transparency and clarity. The opening material then returns in an unfamiliar way. I think of the piece as a journey—from a somewhat rough start to a simple, harmonious closure.

—Zhou Tian

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

Winner, The Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Glick Award (2010)

Performance Materials & Licensing **FirstEdition.us**

Media 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, it should be listed as "Zhou." The full name should be listed as "Zhou Tian."

Transposed Score

A Thousand Years of Good Prayers

Zhou Tian

Maestoso ♩ = 63

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes Piccolo, Flute (1/2), Oboe (1/2), English Horn, Clarinet (Eb), Clarinet (Bb) (1/2), Bassoon (1/2), and Contrabassoon. The second system includes Horn (F) (1/2), Trumpet (C) (1/2, 3), Trombone (1/2), Bass Trombone, and Tuba. The third system includes Timpani, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The fourth system includes Harp and Piano. The fifth system includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score includes various dynamics such as *ff*, *ff brassy*, and *pp sempre*, and performance instructions like *Soli* and *tr*. The tempo is marked *Maestoso* with a tempo of 63 beats per minute.

H **Meno mosso, warmly** $\text{♩} = 54$
(in 3)

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Picc. *sfz*

Fl. 1 2 *sfz* *pp*

Ob. 1 2 *sfz* *pp*

E. Hn. *sfz*

Cl. (Eb) *sfz*

Cl. (Bb) 1 2 *sfz* *p* *mp* *p*

Bsn. 1 2 *sfz* *p*

Hn. (F) 1 2 *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

3 4 *p* *p* *mp* *p*

Pno.

H **Meno mosso, warmly** $\text{♩} = 54$
(in 3)

Vn. I. 1 *pp* *pp* *p* *f* *sonore* *mf*

2 *pp* *pp* *p* *f* *sonore* *mf*

Vn. II. *mf* *mf* *f* *sonore* *mf* *div.*

Va. 1 *f molto sonore* *f* *mf* *unis.*

2 *f molto sonore* *f* *mf* *unis.*

Vc. 1 *f molto sonore* *f* *mf*

2 *f molto sonore* *f* *mf*

Cb.