ABSTRACT

Title of Document: 
THE GARDEN OF THE UNIVERSE: 
A TONE POEM FOR ORCHESTRA
Ka Young Rhee, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2010

Directed By: 
Professor Dr. Lawrence Moss
School of Music

Through *The Garden of Universe*, I would like to combine my religious faith as a Christian with my identity as a Korean composer to create a new synthesis in contemporary music. The title came from the conversation with my mother. After listening to my *In the Presence of the Lord* for piano, she told me that it was like walking with God in his garden of the universe. I was inspired by the words “the garden of the universe”, and this turned out to be the title of my dissertation.

The 1st movement, *The Garden*, opens with a “heavenly” C major chord in string harmonics, harp *bisbigliando*, marimba tremolo, and clarinets. The chord is gradually infiltrated by an F# major tonality symbolizing the emergence of life (Rehearsal A). Rehearsal B (playfully) depicts the play of animals, insects, and birds. The C major chord returns Rehearsal C (tranquillo). Near the end of the 1st movement, a descending harp arpeggio leads to a solo violin cadenza combining the C and F# tritone chords.
Following the cadenza, the 2nd movement, *Chaos*, begins with a chromatic motive treated contrapuntally by solo basses. The scripture reads “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <Genesis 1:2 >” A high E hovers over the rumbling basses like the Spirit of God. This high E is re-enforced by piccolo, celesta, harp, and piano. The upper strings, timpani, and low woodwinds gradually enter in a depiction of increasing chaos. Its climax leads *attacca* into the 3rd movement, *In Praise of Universal Harmony*.

This movement begins solemnly with a steadily accelerating percussion figure symbolizing the word of God. The scripture reads “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. <Hebrews 11:3>”, and “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. <Genesis 1:1>.” In my music this leads to a spirit of rejoicing. From Rehearsal I, “Praise the LORD. <Psalm 148:1>, five traditional Korean rhythmic patterns from *Samullori* (percussion ensemble) emerge. These are Rehearsal I to J: *Gutgeori Jandan*; Rehearsal K to L: *Ban Gilgunak* in *Yeongnam Garak*; Rehearsal M to N: *Byeolgeori, Dalgeori* in *Yeongnam Garak*; Rehearsal O to P: Excerpted *Jangdan* from *Seoljanggu Garak*; and Rehearsal Q to U: *Jjak Soe* in *Uttari Pungmul*. Just before the last rhythm, beginning with Rehearsal Q, the opening C major chord reappears. There is a “war” between the C and F# chords. The F# major is brought into the C major “fold” through triadic tritone progressions. The use of a Fibonacci series between Rehearsal I and O facilitates this “Progression.” (See table on next page.)
A. Use of Korean Traditional Rhythmic Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rehearsal Number</th>
<th>Jangdan</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I to J</td>
<td>Gutgeori Jandan</td>
<td>6/8 or 3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K to L</td>
<td>Ban Gilgunak</td>
<td>6/8, Yeongnam Garak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M to N</td>
<td>Byeolgeori, Dalgeori</td>
<td>2/2, Yeongnam Garak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O to P</td>
<td>Excerpted Jangdan</td>
<td>2/2, Seoljanggu Garak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q to U</td>
<td>Jjak Soe</td>
<td>4/4, Uttari Pungmul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Use of the Fibonacci Series in the 3\(^{rd}\) movement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fibonacci Series</th>
<th>Bar Number</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>The beginning of Fibonacci series and Korean traditional rhythm, Gutgeori Jandan, 6/8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>C major harmonics in strings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>C major harmonics ends. Byeolgeori, Dalgeori, 2/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>F# major chord in vibraphone and celesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>C major chord in harp and string harmonics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>F# major chord in vibraphone and celesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>C major chord in harp and string harmonics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>F# major chord in vibraphone and celesta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>C major chord in harp and string harmonics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Triadic Tritone Progressions, mm. 127-142

![Chromatic Ascending Motion → Secondary Dominant Chord Progression in the circle of fifth →](image-url)
THE GARDEN OF THE UNIVERSE:
A TONE POEM FOR ORCHESTRA

By

Ka Young Rhee

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Maryland, College Park, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Musical Arts 2010

Advisory Committee:
Professor Dr. Lawrence Moss, Chair
Professor Dr. Mark Wilson
Professor Dr. James Fry
Professor Dr. Robert Provine
Professor Dr. Kyu Yong Choi
Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents, Dr. Tae Keon Rhee (b. 1942) and Chung Sim Kim (b. 1956). Their devoted love and prayer for me, and their faith, philosophy, and achievement through their life have left an indelible impression on my life. They inspired me to keep going even whenever I believe I had written myself out. I would like here to give them my deep love, special thanks, and respect.
Acknowledgements

First of all, I would like to give all the glory and thanks to God.

I deeply thank my respected advisor, Dr. Lawrence Moss, for his great guidance and support. I could not have experienced the new dimension of music world without him.

I thank the members of my dissertation committee: Dr. Mark Wilson, Dr. James Fry, Dr. Robert Provine, and Dr. Kyu Yong Choi.

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1. The Garden

…The Sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden… <Genesis 3:8, NIV*>

2. Chaos

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <Genesis 1:2, NIV>

3. In Praise of Universal Harmony

1) mm. 1-8;

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. <Hebrews 11:3, KJV**>

2) mm. 9-12;

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. <Genesis 1:1, KJV>

3) mm. 13-142;

Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts. Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars. Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. He set them in place forever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away. Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,
you men and maidens, old men and children.
Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.
Praise the LORD. < Psalm 148, NIV>

The Bible
*NIV: New International Version
**KJV: King James Version
Instrumentation

Piccolo  
Flute  
2 Oboes  
2 Clarinets in Bb (#2 doubling Bass Clarinet)  
2 Bassoons  

4 Horns  
2 Trumpets in C  
Trombone  
Bass Trombone  
Tuba  

Timpani  
Percussion (3 performers)  
  Triangle, Cymbal, High and Low Tam-tam  
  Tambourine, 5 Woodblocks, 4 Tom-toms  
  Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, Bass Drum  
  Crotales, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Marimba  

Celesta (Also playing triangle and low tam-tam in the 3rd movement)  
Harp  
Piano  

Strings  

Untransposed score (Score in C)

Duration: *ca. 10’*
The Garden of the Universe
A Tone Poem for Orchestra

1. The Garden

Ka Young Rhee

...The Sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden... <Genesis 3:8>
molto accel.

...
2. Chaos

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. <Genesis 1:2>
3. In Praise of Universal Harmony

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear – <Hebrews 11:3>
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. "Genesis 1:1"
Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above. <Psalm 148>
(\text{\textasteriskcentered} = \downarrow) \text{ poco accel.}
[Sheet Music Image]