ABSTRACT

Title of dissertation: NORIE (GAME) FOR ORCHESTRA
Sujung Choi, Doctor of Musical Arts, 2007

Dissertation directed by: Professor Mark Wilson
School of Music

Korean culture the lives of children in past generations were strongly influenced by folk song. They heard their mother’s lullabies and later sang those songs with their peers. Such songs can be called Korean children’s folk songs. These songs are anonymous and are not bound by any forms or lyrical rules. Orally taught and handed down from generation to generation, they typically use only 4-5 pitches.

My piece Norie (“Game,” in Korean) is based on a famous children’s game song, “Yeo-u-ya Yeo-u-ya, Mo-ha-ni?” (Fox, Fox, What Are You Doing?). Children in the game pick one “Fox” and ask questions, which the Fox must answer while singing the song. The lyrics are “Over the first hill, there is no Fox, over the second hill, there is no Fox, over the third hill, there is a Fox” and the Fox is questioned. “Fox, Fox, What are you doing?” “I am sleeping.” “Sleepyhead.” “I am washing.” “Dandy.” “I am eating.” “What are you eating?” “It’s a Frog.” “Dead or alive?” “It’s alive (dead).” If the Fox says “It’s alive,” then children run away. When the Fox catches one of the players, the game continues with a new Fox.

Norie (Game) is a set of Variations for orchestra using this folk song as a theme and a point of departure. Three Clarinets present the theme after the introduction of 45
measures. The scene in which children run away after hearing “It’s alive” is presented at rehearsal mark C. From rehearsal D there are five variations incorporating inverted intervals, varied rhythms, varied modes, several points of imitation, and various ostinato, a repeated pattern, techniques. The third variation (rehearsal mark I) is a slow section in which the folk tune is presented by Marimba and strings. In the final measures each instrument plays the question “Dead or alive?” in different rhythms and Norie concludes with the answer, “It’s alive.”
NORIE (GAME)

by

Sujung Choi

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 2007

Advisory Committee:
Professor Mark Wilson, Chair
Professor Lawrence Moss
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DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents, husband, and son:

Iyon Choi, Nanyoung Hur, Hyung Joon Kim, and Suvin Kim.
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INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
English horn
2 Clarinets in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon
4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
Trombone
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
3 Percussion players
  1st player: Snare Drum, Tom-Tom, Tambourine, Tubular Bells
  2nd player: Tenor Drum, Woodblock, Cymbals (Crash, Suspended), Glockenspiel
  3rd player: Marimba, Triangle, Cymbals (The last 7 measures)

Piano
Harp
1st Violin
2nd Violin
Viola
Cello
Double Bass

Duration: 12 minutes