

## ABSTRACT

Title of Document: MUSIC RELATING TO DEATH: ITS  
MUSICAL VALUE AND REFLECTION OF  
DIVERSE IMAGES

Minna Sungmin Han, Doctor of Musical Arts,  
2007

Directed By: Professor, Santiago Rodriguez, School of Music

One of the most fascinating factors of musical performance is rooted in communicating or expressing human feelings in reaction to various topics: love, hatred, death, despair, suffering, hope, etc. It has been my strong belief that death, among these topics, evokes the most genuine and original feelings in human beings. The emotions toward death bear the most profound and substantial kinds of human feelings: despair, emptiness, fear, sympathy, grief, suffering, etc, and eventually these feelings are mitigated as one dreams or wishes resting in peace after death. I have selected music relating to death to address its musical value and deliver the various images gained and transformed through my performances. My choices of music relating to the theme of death include funeral and monumental music; *Funérailles* from *Harmonies poétiques et religieuses* by Franz Liszt (1811-1886), *Piano Sonata No.2 in B Flat minor, Op.35* by Frédéric Chopin (1810-1847), *Piano Sonata in A Flat Major, Op.26* by Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), music written after the loss of the beloved; *Piano Sonata in A minor, K.310* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

(1756-1791), *Pictures et an exhibition* by Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881), and music possibly written based on existing poems, myths or paintings wherein death has a prominent roll; *Pavane pour une infante défunte* by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), *Piano Concerto No.4 in G Major, Op.58* by Beethoven, Liszt's transcription of *Liebestod* from *Tristan und Isolde*, the opera originally written by Richard Wagner (1813-1883), and *Kindertotenlieder* by Gustav Mahler (1860-1911). It has been my greatest pleasure to explore these pieces, which inspired me to capture the extensive images and inspirations while studying and performing it.

MUSIC RELATING TO DEATH: ITS MUSICAL VALUE AND REFLECTION OF  
DIVERSE IMAGES

by

Minna Sungmin Han

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the  
University of Maryland, College Park in partial fulfilment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
Doctor of Musical Arts  
2007

Advisory Committee:

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Professor Sung Won Lee

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CLARICE SMITH  
PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTER AT MARYLAND



THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
*Presents*

# Minna Han

*piano*

DISSERTATION TITLE:  
MUSIC RELATING TO DEATH:  
ITS MUSICAL VALUE AND REFLECTION  
OF DIVERSE IMAGES

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**Please Note:** As a courtesy to the performers and your fellow patrons, please turn off all cell phones and pagers (or leave them with the House Manager with your seat location); please remember that food, drink, smoking, photography, recording (audio and video) and animals (other than service animals) are not permitted in the performing spaces; please refrain from unnecessary talking, noise, or disruptive behavior; please note that we make every effort to start on time and we recommend that you arrive at least 15 minutes before the performance time (latecomers are delayed entry and ushered in at an appropriate seating break determined in consultation with the artist); for your own safety in case of an emergency, look for the nearest exit – walk, do not run to that area.

**Tuesday, April 11, 2006 | 5:30PM**

**JOSEPH AND ALMA GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL**  
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center  
University of Maryland

## PROGRAM

GUSTAV MAHLER (1860-1911)

Kindertotenlieder

"Nun will dei sonn' so hell aufge'n!"

"Nun seh' ich wohl, warum so dunkle Flammen."

"Wenn dien Mütterlein."

"Oft denk' ich, sie sind nur ausgegangen!"

"In diesem Wetter!"

Jee-eun Hong, soprano

### INTERMISSION

L.V. BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Piano Concerto no. 4 in G Major, op.58

Allegro moderato

Andante con moto

Rondo

Kai-Ching Chang

This recital is being presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. Minna Han is a student of Santiago Rodriguez.



THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE RECITAL.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2006 AT 5:30PM

JOSEPH & ALMA GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
University of Maryland, College Park

## PROGRAM

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Sonata in A-flat Major, op.26

Andante con Variazioni

Scherzo: Allegro molto

Marcia Funebre

Allegro

This recital is being presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. Minna Han is a student of Santiago Rodriguez.

Richard Wagner / Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Isolde's Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde*

INTERMISSION

Modeste Mussorgsky (1839-1881)

Pictures at an Exhibition

CLARICE SMITH  
PERFORMING ARTS  
CENTER AT MARYLAND



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THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC  
presents

# Minna Han

*piano*

ACCOMPANIST:  
Kai-Ching Chang

ASSISTING MUSICIAN:  
Jee-eun Hong, soprano

DISSERTATION:  
Music Relating to Death:  
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THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2007 AT 5:30PM

JOSEPH & ALMA GILDENHORN RECITAL HALL

CLARICE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
University of Maryland, College Park

# PROGRAM

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART (1756-1791)

Piano Sonata in A Minor, K. 310

Allegro maestoso

Andante cantabile

Presto

FRANZ LISZT (1811-1886)

Funérailles from harmonies poétiques et religieuses

## INTERMISSION

MAURICE RAVEL (1875-1937)

pavane pour une Infante defunte

FRYDERYK CHOPIN (1810-1847)

Piano Sonata No. 2 in B Flat Minor, Op. 35

Grave: Doppio movimento

Scherzo

Marche funebre: Lento

Finale: Presto

## RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

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*This recital is being presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. Minna Han is a student of Santiago Rodriguez.*