PLANTAINS IN THE RAIN

For Orchestra

A THESIS IN
Music Composition

Presented to the Faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree

MASTER OF MUSIC

by

WANG A MAO
B.A., Central Conservatory of Music 2009

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ABSTRACT

"Plantains in the Rain" is an early masterpiece of Cantonese music (a type of Chinese traditional instrumental ensemble music). The piece depicts the pattering of rain drops on plantains in early summer.

My composition *Plantains in the Rain* for orchestra has shown how I got inspiration from the Chinese traditional music, and formed my personal creative concept, in order to compose in Chinese style with Western compositional approach.

By slowing down and ornamenting the original theme, contrasting the legato and staccato phrases, altering the rhythm, and employing various dynamics, I attempted to depict the image of the raindrop's pattering sound and the plantains swaying gesture in the rain.

I first worked on the piano in a four-hands version, as a study for composing this orchestral work. As the musical textures and the sonority were expanded, the dramaturgy of the piece was also changed. However, the image and the spirit of the original music were shared thoroughly in both versions.
The faculty listed below, appointed by the Dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance, have examined a thesis titled “Plantains in the Rain,” presented by WANG A-Mao, candidate for the Master of Music degree, and certify that in their opinion it is worthy of acceptance.

Supervisory Committee

Chen Yi, D.M.A., Committee Chair
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Zhou Long, D.M.A.
Conservatory of Music and Dance

Mara Gibson, Ph.D.
Conservatory of Music and Dance
CONTENTS

ABSTRACT ........................................................................................................................................ ii

INSTRUMENTATION .................................................................................................................. v

SCORE ......................................................................................................................................... 1

VITA ........................................................................................................................................... 23
1 Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets bB
1 Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoon

4 Horns
2 Trumpets (St. Mute/Cup Mute)
2 Trombones
1 Tuba

Percussions
I. Timpani, A D E G, Suspended cymbal
II. Glockenspiel, Vibraphone, Triangle
III. Tam-tam (Large), Bass Drum, Triangle

Harp
Piano
Strings
VITA

Ms. Wang A Mao was born into a musical family in Beijing, China. She started to play the piano at the age of three. From 1996 - 2004, Ms. Wang studied piano and composition in the Primary and Middle School of the Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM). From 2004 - 2009, she studied composition under Professor Tang Jianping at the Central Conservatory of Music, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in Composition.

Ms. Wang has received the second prize of the first Palatino Composition Competition (2007) with her piano solo work - *The Impression of Beijing Opera*. In 2011, she was selected as a winner of the Young Composer Project, which was held by the Beijing Modern Music Festival with her chamber music work, *The Vox of Swallow and Nightingale*. Her Chinese chamber music work, *The Battle Between Zhong Kui and Ghosts*, was performed at the eighth Music Festival of the Central Conservatory of Music (2008). In addition, she was chosen as a finalist of the UMKC Chamber Music Competition, with her chamber music work, *Bright Trickling Brook*, in 2010.