CHARACTERS IN THEATRE

FOR ORCHESTRA

A DISSERTATION IN
Music Composition

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

DOCTORAL OF MUSICAL ARTS

by

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Kansas City, Missouri
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ABSTRACT

Beijing Opera is a form of traditional Chinese theater that combines singing, reciting, performing, acrobatics acting, and instrumental accompanying, along with rich face make-up, costume and stage setting.

I applied the pitch material drawn from the fixed instrumental accompanying patterns, the rhythmic material and tone color from percussion ensemble performance, to compose the theme and its development. By Contrasting the legato phrases and staccato phrases, altering the rhythm, and employing various dynamics, I attempted to depict the contrast between majestic males, delicate female roles, and acrobatic, young, male and female characters.
The faculty listed below, appointed by the Dean of the Conservatory of Music and Dance, have examined a dissertation titled “Characters in Theatre ,” presented by Amao Wang, candidate for the Doctoral of Musical Arts, and certify that in their opinion it is worthy of acceptance.

Supervisory Committee

Chen Yi, D.M.A., Committee Chair
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INSTRUMENTATION

1 Piccolo
2 Flutes (doubling Piccolo)
2 Oboes
2 Clarinet in B-flat
1 Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
4 Horn in F
2 Trumpets in C
2 Trombones
1 Tuba

Percussions
Timpani (EABDE octave higher)
I. Glockenspiel, Vibraphone, Triangle, Tam-tam
II. Bass Drum, Tam-tam, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal

Harp
Piano
Strings
Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
B-Cl. 1
B-Cl. 2
B-Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
C Trp. 1
C Trp. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tuba
Temp.
Gk.
Vib.
Triangle
Tam-tam
B.D
Triangle
Tam-tam
S.C
He.
Pno.
Vln. I 1
Vln. I 2
Vln. II 1
Vln. II 2
Vla. 1
Vla. 2
Vc. 1
Vc. 2
Cb. 1
Cb. 2

8 3 3 3 3 8 8 3 3 8 8 3 3 8 8 3 3 8 8 3 3 8 8 3 3 8 8 3 3 8 8

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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.

In 2014, selected from over 400 compositions, Ms. WANG’s orchestral work *Character in Theatre* is presented in public readings by American Composer Orchestra in its 23rd underwood new music readings session. She also received Susan and Ford Schumann Scholarship to attend 2014 Aspen Music Festival and School Composition program. She has awarded the 2014 Missouri Music Teachers Association Composition Commission in 2013. 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*. She received the second prize of the first Palatino Composition Competition (2007) with her piano solo work - *Sheng Dan Jing Mo Chou*. Her East-West instrumentation chamber work *The Feeble Breeze, The Sullen Spring* for Bass Clarinet, Zhong Hu and Percussions was premiered by Music From China at Symphony Space in New York City (2013). The Violin and Piano duet *The Spirit of Zheng* and the String Quartet *Vignettes: The Seasons* were premiered by Third Angle Ensemble in 2012 and 2014. 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). Her orchestral work *Plantains in the Rain* was read by Kansas City Symphony in 2012. In addition, she was chosen as a finalist of the UMKC Chamber Music Competition, with her chamber music work, *Bright Trickling Brook*, in 2010.


Currently, Ms. Wang A Mao is a fourth-year D.M.A. composition student at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance, studying composition with Professors Chen Yi, Zhou Long, James Mobberley, and Paul Rudy.