

A Visit to the Sky-mother Mountain

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Abstract

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“Would you have me bow my head before mighty prices, forgetting all the joy of my heart?” Not long after Li Bai (Chinese: 李白, pinyin: Lǐbái, 701–762) left the imperial court, he wrote so at the end of one of his masterpiece, *A Visit to the Sky-mother Mountain in a Dream*. As he acknowledged his fate and true passion at this point, the experience in the mountain in the dream would continue into his reality. This piece, scored for seven instrumentalists, is after Li Bai’s experience before, in and after the dream, and the composer’s own imagination of Li Bai’s inner world.

Lu Yin

A Visit to the Sky-mother Mountain

《天姥游记》

for Ensemble

Lu Yin

A Visit to the Sky-mother Mountain

for Ensemble

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute (also Piccolo, Alto Flute in G and Bass Flute)

Clarinet in B \flat (also Bass Clarinet in B \flat)

Piano

Percussion

Violin (with one additional Erhu Bow)

Viola (also Vibraslap)

Cello

Total list of percussion instruments (Vibraslap excluded):

Tam-tam

Suspended cymbal

Timpani (tuned to A \flat 3)

Bass Drum

Vibraphone

Bamboo Chimes

Triangle

5 wood blocks (of different sizes)

Maracas

Tambourine (with jingles)

Crotales

Xylophone

Glockenspiel

4 Tom-toms (of different sizes)

Guiro

Spiral cymbal

Bell Tree

5 Cowbells

Glass Chimes

Flexatone

Temple bowl (small)

Thundersheet (suspended)

Marimba


Clash cymbal

Duration: 10 min.

Notations

Flute:

w/o t. : without tonguing


 : tongue slap

o.b.: overblow


w.t.: whistle tone

Clarinet:

→ M: gradually move from normal play to multiphonics and vice versa

 : tongue slap

Piano:

 : use superball to slide on the string(s)

F.F.: Use finger flesh to slide on the string(s)

F.N.T: Use fingernail tip to play on the string(s); wearing Pipa/Zither fake nails on both index fingers is highly recommended

Notes in Parentheses: press and hold silently until told to release or until new notes are provided


P.S.: Palm strike; use palm to strike the indicated strings inside the piano


“(Still hold)”: keep holding the previous notes although new notes are provided

pizz.: pluck the string with finger

ord.: play on keyboard

Percussion:

 (Bass Drum/temple bowl): Circular motion; Draw circles on the surface of the instrument. One circle per note


 (Spiral cymbal): glide from top to the bottom of the instrument in order to hit the edges of every node

Violin:

o.b.: on bridge. (Almost) pitchless sound


Viola:

o.b.: on bridge. (Almost) pitchless sound

 (vibraslap): after attack, keep the striking hand on the instrument in order to damp the vibration; otherwise if normal note heads are used, lift the striking hand and let the instrument ring.

Cello:

o.b.: on bridge. (Almost) pitchless sound

 : damp the string, and chop the string up to down

Translation of Chinese texts in the score :

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| P. 1 - 烟涛微茫 | Its mist and waves are hazy |
| P. 5 - 天台四万八千丈 | The Tian-tai mountain (a mountain remotely facing the Sky-mother mountain) is forty-eight zhang high (approximately 100 miles) |
| P. 9 - 湖月照我影 | My shadow is woven by the moonlight mirrored from the lake |
| P. 12 - 丘峦崩摧 | The thunder and lightning teared the mountain |
| P. 16 - 虎瑟鸾车 (originally 虎鼓瑟兮鸾回车) | Tigers playing the lute and phoenix driving carts |
| P. 18 - 且放白鹿 (originally 且放白鹿青崖间) | Let me, on my green slope, raise a white deer |

A VISIT to the Sky-mother Mountain.

天姥游记.

Score in C

Lu Yin

♩ = 55

烟涛微茫

5

The score is written for a chamber ensemble. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Alto Flute:** Part 1, starting with a rest, then playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *pp*.
- Bass Clarinet:** Part 1, playing a low, sustained line with dynamics *ppp*.
- Piano:** Part 1, featuring techniques like "Superball" and "Press and slide on the string". Part 2 includes "magnetic ball" and "drop the ball onto string" techniques. Dynamics range from *ppp* to *pp*.
- Percussion:** Part 1, using "Tam-tam" and "Ped." (pedal). Part 2 includes "l.v." (low voice), "Sus. cym." (suspended cymbal), and "Tam-tam". Dynamics range from *ppp* to *mp*.
- Violin:** Part 1, playing a melodic line with dynamics *pp*.
- Viola:** Part 1, playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*.
- Cello:** Part 1, playing a melodic line with dynamics *pp*.

The score includes various musical notations such as rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 55.

Fl. *tongue slap*

B. cl.

Pno. *Press and hold silently* *release* *ord.* *Superball* *l.v.* *F.F.* *F.N.T.* *ord.*

Perc. *tam-tam.* *metal stick* *crotales* *Ped. arco.* *l.v.* *tamb.*

Vln. *8va* *richochet* *c.l.b.* *c.l.t.* *ord.* *3* *(>)* *(>)* *(>)* *PP* *c.l.t.*

Vla. *richochet* *c.l.b.* *c.l.t. 8va* *ord.* *3* *(>)* *(>)* *(>)* *PP* *c.l.b.* *c.l.t.*

Vc. *pizz. 3 arco.* *PP* *PPP* *m.s.p.* *(>)* *pizz. arco* *PP* *P* *PPP*

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *P* *mp* *P* *sf* *(>)* *flz.*

B. cl. *mp* *gliss.*

Pno. *F.N.T.* *mp* *mf*

Perc. *(Ped)* *crotales* *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vln. *mp* *pp* *mp* *PPP* *m.s.p.* *gliss.* *b*

Vla. *mp* *ppp* *mf* *m.s.p.* *gliss.*

Vc. *mp* *P*

♩ = 80 天竺一頁八半支

Fl. *35* *(s)* *f* *pp* *p* *3* *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *5*

vib. *gliss.* *(s)*

Fl. *40* *fz.* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *pp* *mp* *f* *mf* *3* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. *c.l.b.* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *c.l.b.* *mp* *c.l.t* *3*

Fl. *45* *gliss.* *(s)* *mp* *mp* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *3* *f* *mf* *3* *f* *mf* *6* *f* *mf* *6*

fz. *(s)*

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Press and hold silently until told to release. (#)

Pno. *(#)*

Perc. *glock.* *f*

Vln.

Vla. *mf* *mp* *f*

Vc.

50

Fl. *f* *mp* *ff* *ff*

Cl. *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

Pno. *mf* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *ff*

Perc. *pp* *f* *pp* *fp* *f* *fff*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vc. *f*

Finger flesh *ovd.* *Finger flesh* *ovd. Sim.* *Superball* *B.D.*

*Ped ** *Ped ** *Ped ** *Ped.* *Sus. cymbal. glock.* *Tom-tom* *Vibraslap*

55

Fl. *mf* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Cl. *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Pno. *p* *ff* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Perc. *pp* *ff* *mf* *ff* *p* *ff*

Vln. *pp* *ff* *pp* *f* *mp* *mp*

Vla. *ff* *pp* *f* *mp* *mp*

Vc. *f* *f* *mp* *mp*

gliss. *Finger tip* *Finger Flesh.* *Finger tip* *Finger Flesh.*

S.P. → ovd. *S.t.* *arco* *S.t.* *arco*

Press and hold until told to release. *release all keys* *hold until told to release.*

Guitar *B.12.* *Bamboo chime*

60

Handwritten musical score for measures 60-65. The score includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Fl.:** Starts with *f* and *ff* dynamics, then *f* and *p*. Includes a *B. Fl.* section and a *w.t.* (writings) section with notes like *(>)* and *(>)*. Ends with *f* and *mf*.
- Cl.:** Starts with *f*, then *f* and *mf*. Includes a *B. cl.* section and a *slap. ord.* (slap order) section.
- Pno.:** Starts with *Finger tip* and *P.S. Finger flesh*. Includes *ff* and *mf* dynamics, triplets, and a *Superball* section.
- Perc.:** Includes *l.v.* (left valve), *Glock* (glockenspiel), *arco* (arco), *damp* (damp), *Tam-tam*, *Jazz brush*, and *Spiral cymbal*.
- vln.:** Starts with *vib.* (vibrato), *mf*, and *ff*. Includes *D.b.* (double bass) and *circular bowing*.
- vla.:** Includes *damp "chop"* and *mf*.
- Vc.:** Includes *damp "chop"*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. Includes a *Pizz.* (pizzicato) section.

65

Handwritten musical score for measures 65-70. The score includes staves for Bass Flute (B. Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. cl.), Piano (Pno.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- B. Fl.:** Starts with *4* (measure rest), then *P* and *mf*. Includes a *w.t.* section.
- B. cl.:** Starts with *4* (measure rest), then *P*.
- Pno.:** Includes *3* (triplet), *P*, *f*, *Release all keys*, *ff*, *mf*, and *B.D.* (Bass Drum).
- Perc.:** Includes *Tam-tam*, *l.v.*, *B.D.*, *mf*, *f*, *P*, *Tom-tom B.D.*, *f*, *P*, *f*, *P*, *f*, *P*, *f*, *Bentree*.
- vln.:** Includes *(o.b.)* (oboe), *f*, and *Flaut.* (Flute).
- vla.:** Includes *Flaut.* and *P*.
- Vc.:** Includes *(o.b.)*, *P*, *f*, *3* (triplet), and *P*.

Handwritten musical score for measures 70-74. The score includes staves for B. Fl., B. cl., Pno., Perc., Vln., Vla., and Vc. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 100. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*. Performance instructions include *airly*, *cl.*, *F.M.T.*, *Sva*, *ord.*, *Ped*, *Tom-toms B.D.*, *l.v.*, *v.l.*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *mf*, *mp*, *ff*, *m.sp.*, and *(>)*. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes, and includes a double bar line at the end of measure 74.

Handwritten musical score for measures 75-79. The score includes staves for Fl., cl., Pno., Perc., Vln., Vla., and Vc. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 100. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*. Performance instructions include *magnetic ball*, *Crotines*, *Sus. cym.*, *Tamb.*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *pp*, *mf*, *mp*, *ff*, *m.sp.*, and *(>)*. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes, and includes a double bar line at the end of measure 79.

Picc. *mp* *f* *mp* *P* *mp* *f*

Cl. *mp* *f* *mp* *P* *P* *pp* *f*

Pno. *mf* *pp* *ppp*

Perc. *mf* *mf* *f* *pp* *ppp* *Glass chime* *pp*

Vln. *Sva* *mp* *P* *P* *pp*

Vla. *mp* *P* *P* *pp*

Vc. *P* *mp* *P* *mp* *P* *P* *pp*

Drop the ball on to the string

ord.

Con bells

Glass chime

湖月照武影

so

♩ = 55

Picc. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Pno. *Sva* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Perc. *crotals* *con bells* *tam-tam* *lv.* *pp*

Vln. *Sva* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Vla. *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Vc. *pp* *f* *ppp*

Drop the magnetic ball on to the string

con

tam-tam

lv.

pp

(*) use fingers to tap the region continuously.

B. Fl. *vib.*

B. cl. *pp*

Pno. *Pizz.* *f*

Perc. *(temple bowl)* *l.v.* *clamp* *Fluxatone* *Cowbell* *P*

Vln. *arco.* *pp* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *S.P.* *tr* *tr* *tr* *b \flat* *ord.* *b \flat* *P* *mf*

Vla. *c.l.b.* *f*

Vc. *f*

B. Fl. *Fl.*

B. cl. *cl.*

Pno. *Pizz.* *guitar pick.* *triangle* *mf* *f*

Perc. *triangle better, scratch on the top.* *crotales* *mf* *f*

Vln. *fp* *mp* *f* *P* *f* *fp* *f* *I* *mf* *P* *f*

Vla. *mf* *I*

Vc.

Prc.
 Cl.
 Pno.
 Perc.
 Vln.
 Vla.
 Vo.

Musical score for measures 14-17. The score includes staves for Piccolo, Clarinet, Piano, Percussion, Violin, Viola, and Voice. It features various musical notations such as dynamics (ff, mf, f, pp), articulation (hold, p.s., F.F.), and performance instructions (ord. vib., non-vib., marimba, B.D.). Measure numbers 14, 15, 16, and 17 are indicated at the top of the staves.

Prc.
 Cl.
 Pno.
 Perc.
 Vln.
 Vla.
 Vo.

Musical score for measures 18-21. The score includes staves for Piccolo, Clarinet, Piano, Percussion, Violin, Viola, and Voice. It features various musical notations such as dynamics (ff, mf, f, pp), articulation (hold), and performance instructions (ord. vib., non-vib., S.P., Cowbell). Measure numbers 18, 19, 20, and 21 are indicated at the top of the staves.

130

Handwritten musical score for measures 130-134. The score includes staves for Piccolo (Picc.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Voice (Vo.).

- Picc.:** Features a 7-measure rest followed by a series of notes with a *ff* dynamic. Includes a trill in the final measure.
- Cl.:** Starts with a 7-measure rest, then plays notes with *ff* and *f* dynamics.
- Pno.:** Features a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes. Includes a 6-measure rest, a *hold.* marking, and a *Sus. cym.* instruction.
- Perc.:** Shows dynamic changes from *f* to *fp* to *f*, then *ff*, and finally *mf* to *f*.
- Vln.:** Includes *ord.* (order) markings and dynamic changes from *ff* to *f* to *ff*.
- Vla.:** Features a 6-measure rest, *ord.* markings, and dynamic changes from *ff* to *f* to *ff*.
- Vo.:** Includes dynamic markings *fff*, *ff*, and *fff*.

135

Handwritten musical score for measures 135-139. The score includes staves for Piccolo (Picc.), Clarinet (Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Voice (Vo.).

- Picc.:** Features a 7-measure rest followed by notes with *f* and *ff* dynamics.
- Cl.:** Includes a *Sua* marking and dynamic changes from *f* to *ff*.
- Pno.:** Shows a *hold.* marking with a 3-measure rest, followed by notes with *ff* dynamics and a *release.* instruction.
- Perc.:** Features dynamic changes from *p* to *ff* to *mp*, and then *mp* to *ff*.
- Vln.:** Includes *S.P.* (Sordano Piano) markings and dynamic changes from *f* to *ff*.
- Vla.:** Features a 3-measure rest, *ord.* markings, and dynamic changes from *f* to *ff*.
- Vo.:** Includes *ord.* markings, a 3-measure rest, and dynamic changes from *ff* to *ff*.

Picc. *8va.* *f* *mf* *Senza 8va.* *150*

Cl. (5va) *f*

Pno. *F.N.T.* *f*

Perc. *mp* *P* *always damp the temple bowl. PP*

Vln. (15va) *3* *3* *3* *6* *3* *5* *3*

Vla. (15va) *15va.* *#0*

Vc.

Picc. *f* *mf*

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf* *PPP*

Pno. *cresc.*

Perc. *P* *mp* *Temple bowl & cymbal*

Vln. *Senza 15va.* *Erlubow* *PP*

Vla. *15va.* *#0* *PPP*

Vc.

且放白鹿

♩ = 55

Fl.

Cl.

Pno.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

160

Perc.

Vln.

Perc.

Vln.

(*) Temple bowl in one hand and cymbal in the other.
hit them with each other.