

John Oliver

Scenes from an Intercultural Marriage

for traditional Chinese orchestra

“Scenes from an Intercultural Marriage” is a title that I invented after I finished writing the music. So although it may seem that there is a story being told in the music, there is not! The music mixes together the musical flavours of China and North American: pentatonic with blues and jazz. The open strings of the cello contain 4 of the 5 notes of the pentatonic scale used in Chinese music. At the beginning of the music, you will hear the cello and the orchestra play these four notes as ascending perfect fifths. Then the cello will pluck the strings and fill in those notes with a blues scale. This is the basis for much of the music you will hear.

The names of the four movements are:

- 1] Good Morning Vancouver!
- 2] Shooting Stars
- 3] Learn How to Dance
- 4] Look in the Mirror.

INTRODUCTION
(tuning, instrument ranges, etc.)

Although conceived of for a Chinese traditional ensemble, substitutions can be made in the absence of Chinese instruments, as noted below.

To rent parts or to make a donation for this score please visit the web site: www.johnolivermusic.com

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Musicians are encouraged to use traditional Chinese techniques on their instruments throughout the score, except when there are special indications, such as "non vibrato".

Small Dizi
One player
Bangdi: pipe note: G (G Mixolydian scale) [substitute: piccolo]
(Sounds one octave higher.)

Large Dizi
or Xiao
Qudi: pipe note: G (G Mixolydian scale) [substitute: flute in C]
(Sounds as written.)
Keyed sheng (36-pipe soprano)

Sheng
[substitute: accordion]

Tam-tam

Rock Kit
snare drum
toms
ride cymbal
hi-hat cymbal
crash cymbal
kick drum

Yangqin
[substitute: piano or other hammer dulcimer]

Liuqin
Tuning of open Liuqin strings
[substitute: mandolin]

Pipa
Tuning of open Pipa strings
[substitute: guitar]
highest note
Play continuous lun.
Play continuous lun ending on the next beat.
Play break | Play no break

Zhongruan
Tuning of open Zhongruan strings
[substitute: guitar]
Sounds one octave lower than written.

Daruan
Tuning of open Daruan strings

Guzheng

INTRODUCTION
(tuning, instrument ranges, etc.)

Gaohu
[substitute: violin]

Erhu
[substitute: violin]

Zhong Hu
[substitute: violin]
Zhonghu and cello are asked to play just major thirds and minor sevenths against the bass root notes from measure 381 onward. These notes are 14 cents and 31 cents respectively lower than equal temperament. They are the natural-sounding 3rd and 7th in the harmonic series. The player only needs to find the just major third (E#-C# for cello and B-G for zhonghu), and can play the same note for the just minor 7th

Violoncello

Double Bass

Commissioned by the Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra
Dedicated to their conductor, Chih-Sheng Chen

Scenes from an Intercultural Marriage

1. Good Morning Vancouver!

John Oliver

$\text{♩} = 96$

①

Small Dizi

Large Dizi
Xiao or low dizi
mf — *f* — *mf*

Sheng
non vibrato
p — *f* — *p* — *f* — *p* — *f* — *p* — *f* — *p* — *f* — *p* — *pp* non vibrato

Tam-tam
mf

Rock Kit
straight

Yangqin
let vibrate (LV)
mf tremolo always

Liuqin

Pipa

Zhongruan

Daruan

Guzheng
non vibrato
vibrato (G) let vibrate non vibrato vibrato (G)

Gaohu
 $\text{♩} = 96$ non vibrato
mf — *p* *mf* — *p* vibrato soft

Erhu
non vibrato
mf — *p* *mf* — *p* vibrato soft

Zhong Hu
non vibrato
mf — *p* *mf* — *p* vibrato soft

Violoncello
arco
mf expressive *mf* — *p* pizz. *f*

Double Bass
arco
f — *p* *f* — *p* *mf* *f* — *p* *f* — *p*

To Dizi (bangdi)

The musical score is arranged in a multi-staff format. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- L. Dizi:** Melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *f*, and *mp*.
- Sheng:** Harmonic accompaniment with dynamics *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*.
- R. Dr.:** Rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *f* and *f*. Includes markings for *swing* and *straight*.
- Yangqin:** Percussive accompaniment with *LV* markings.
- Liuqin:** Melodic accompaniment.
- Pipa:** Harmonic accompaniment.
- Ruan:** Harmonic accompaniment.
- Daruan:** Harmonic accompaniment.
- Guzheng:** Harmonic accompaniment.
- Gaohu:** Melodic accompaniment.
- Erhu:** Melodic accompaniment with *vibrato soft* and *expressive* markings. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, and *mp*.
- Zhong Hu:** Melodic accompaniment with *mf* and *mp* dynamics.
- Vc.:** Violin part with *arco*, *pizz.*, and *arco* markings. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, and *mp*.
- Db.:** Double Bass part with *mf* dynamics.

12

Sheng

R. Dr. *swing* *straight*
(closed)

Yangqin *mf* LV

Liuqin *mf*

Pipa *mf*

Ruan *mf*

Daruan *f*

Guzheng *mf*

Erhu *mp* *p* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Zhong Hu *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *p*

Db. *mp*

16

Sheng *pp* *p*

R. Dr. *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf*

Erhu *p* *f* *p* *f* *mp*

Zhong Hu *p* *f* *mp* *p*

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

V.S.

21

S. Dizi

Sheng

R. Dr.

Yangqin

Liuqin

Pipa

Ruan

Daruan

Guzheng

Erhu

Zhong Hu

Vc.

Db.

The musical score is arranged in a system of 13 staves. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- S. Dizi:** Treble clef, mostly rests with a final flourish.
- Sheng:** Treble clef, sustained notes with a *p* dynamic marking.
- R. Dr. (Rhythm Drum):** Percussion staff with *p* and *f* dynamics.
- Yangqin:** Treble and Bass clefs, *(mf)* double notes.
- Liuqin:** Treble clef, *(mf)* notes.
- Pipa:** Treble clef, *(mf)* notes.
- Ruan:** Treble clef, *(mf)* notes.
- Daruan:** Bass clef, *(f)* notes.
- Guzheng:** Treble and Bass clefs, *(mf)* notes.
- Erhu:** Treble clef, *f*, *mf*, *mp* dynamics.
- Zhong Hu:** Treble clef, *f*, *mf*, *mp* dynamics.
- Vc. (Violin):** Treble clef, *pizz.* (pizzicato) markings.
- Db. (Double Bass):** Bass clef, *f*, *p*, *mp* dynamics.

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S. Dizi

Sheng

R. Dr.

Yangqin

Liuqin

Pipa

Ruan

Daruan

Guzheng

Erhu

Zhong Hu

Vc.

Db.

Bao Huashe

She Chanying

ff *mf* *p*

f *mf*

f *arco* *pizz.* *mp* *mp* *arco* *mp*

36

Sheng

R. Dr.

Yangqin

Ruan

Daruan

Guzheng

Gaohu

Erhu

Zhong Hu

Vc.

Db.

p *pp* *p*

mf > p *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p*

mf *mf*

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

p *pizz.* *mf*

41

Sheng

R. Dr.

Yangqin

Liuqin

Pipa

Ruan

Daruan

Guzheng

Gaohu

Erhu

Zhong Hu

Vc.

Db.

mf > p *mf > p* *mf > p*

f *f*

f *p* *f* *mp*

f *p* *f* *mp*

f *p* *f* *p*

arco *mf* *f* *p*

expressive *mp* *f* *p*



46

Sheng

T-t.

Yangqin

Pipa

Ruan

Daruan

Guzheng

Gaohu

Vc.

Db.

mp

f *p*

p *f* *p*

expressive *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *p* *mp* *f* *p* *f* *p*

pizz. *f*

Slower

52 (Berg: Violin Concerto)

S. Dizi

Chu Huashe

Sheng

double

Yangqin

Pipa

Ruan

Daruan

Guzheng

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *pp*

vibrato

Slower

(Berg: Violin Concerto)

Gaohu

Erhu

Zhong Hu

Vc.

Db.

arco

mp *p* *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

no vibrato

sul tasto no vibrato

arco

pizz.

arco

57

Sheng

Daruan

Vc.

Db.

SOLO pizz.

p

2. Shooting Stars

8

$\text{♩} = 108$

pizz.

64 Vc. *mf*

67

S. Dizi

Sheng Bao Huashe *f* *p* *mf* *f* *f*

R. Dr.

Yangqin *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Liuqin *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Pipa *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Ruan *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Daruan *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *mp*

Guzheng *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Gaohu *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Erhu *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Zhong Hu *p* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *mf*

Db. *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*