

Aaron Avshalomov

THE TWILIGHT HOUR OF

~ YANG KUEI FEI ~

an opera in one act.

Poem by A. E. Grantham

THE TWILIGHT HOUR OF YANG KUEI FEI

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SCENE : Temple grounds

A succession of turquoise, purple, blue, green and amber-tiled halls and stone-flagged courtyards piled in Terraces on a hillside of rustling woods and running waters.

Half way below a tapering pagoda, an immense and golden image of Buddha Amitaba towers majestic above the altar, the incense bowls, the candlesticks and flower vases, the large drum and the fish-head drum, the gong and massive bell of bronze.

The Oldest Monk sits on a bamboo mat near by. He has a rosary in his hand, books by his side. His hair is white, his robe grey, bordered round the neck with black.

On the uppermost terrace crowned with immemorial white-stemmed pines the Poet stands and gazes into the distance. His lute is on a table, a young monk attends him.

Over against this terrace, but somewhat lower, in the saddle of the mountain, a lesser shrine on a narrow platform, reached by a steep flight of stairs.

A procession of monks moves from a side hall to the great shrine with the Golden Image. Incense is kindled. Candles are lit. They chant the vesper service to the sonorous accompaniment of gongs and bells and drums.

INSTRUMENTS OF THE ORCHESTRA

2 Flutes (2nd alternate with Piccolo)

2 Oboes (2nd alternate with English Horn)

2 Clarinets (2nd alternate with Bass Clarinet)

2 Bassoons

4 Horns

Trombone Basso

Timpany

Xylophone

Glockenspiel

Harp

Percussion:

Triangle (tr)

Tambourine (tam)

Wood Blocks (WBlk) small; large

Small, single Chinese Cymbal (ch; C.)

Cymbal suspended (s.c.)

Cymbals with Bass Drum

Gongs - small; medium; large

Chinese Drums - small and large

Snare Drum

Wood Clappers (Chinese)

Strings

C H A R A C T E R S :

MING HUANG....., The Emperor..... Bass-baritone
YANG KUEI FEI....., His favorite..... Soprano
HER YOUNGEST SISTER..... Mezzo-soprano
HER ELDEST SISTER..... Contralto
KAO LI SHIH..... Chief Eunuch..... Tenor (high)
CHEN HSUAN LI..... Captain of the
Imperial guards.. Bass
THE ABBOT..... Baritone
THE OLDEST MONK..... Bass (profundo)
A YOUNG MONK..... Tenor
THE POET..... Tenor
THE NIGHT WATCHMAN
CHORUS OF MONKS AND SOLDIERS
TEMPLE SERVANTS

TIME: The 6th moon of the 43rd year of the
reign of Ming Huang (756 A.D.)

Place: The Buddhist Temple on Ma Wei (Shensi).



An Opera in One Act

Music by Aaron Avshalomov (1958-1960)

Lento ($\text{♩} = 52$)

PP

[illegible]

10

Andante (♩=76)

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. Bb

Fag.

Cor.

Trb.

Tim.

Perc.

Camp.

Arpa

10

Andante (♩=76)

Vl.

Vle

Vc.

B.

Pesante

Fl.
 Ob.
 Cl.
 Bb.
 Fg.
 H.
 Tib.
 Tim.
 Per.
 Cam.
 A.

(drum sticks)
 TRIA.
 Fagottine
 MEDIUM small
 gong gong large gong

marcato sempre

Pesante

1.
 vl.
 II.
 vle
 vc.
 B.

tremolando
 gliss.
 simile

simile
 simile
 simile

dim.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bb.

Tg.

H.

Trb.

Tm.

Perc.

Cam.

A.

5/4

5/4

Handwritten musical score for Violins I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Bass. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a "dim" (diminuendo) marking at the top. The Violin I part has a melodic line with many slurs. The Violin II part has a similar melodic line. The Viola part has a more rhythmic, eighth-note pattern. The Violoncello and Bass parts have a simple harmonic accompaniment. The score is written on two systems of staves.

dim.

Handwritten musical score for 24 staves. The score is divided into three systems, each with a 4/4 time signature. The instruments listed on the left are: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (cl. Bb), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (H.), Trumpet (Trb.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc.), Xylophone (xyl.), Alto Saxophone (A.), Violin I (vi I), Violin II (vi II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (B.). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *mf*, *pp*, *cresc. poco*, *dim.*, *poco*, *change to Cor Inglesé*). There are also tempo markings like *Large ch. drum* and *very Large ch. wood*. The score is marked with a 6/10 time signature in the second system. The page number 24 is visible at the bottom left.

Handwritten musical score for a symphony orchestra and vocal soloist. The score is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The instruments and parts include:

- Flutes (Fl.)**: Two staves, both in treble clef.
- Oboes (Ob.)**: One staff, in treble clef.
- Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. Bb)**: One staff, in bass clef.
- Trumpets (Trb.)**: Two staves, both in treble clef.
- Timpani (Timp.)**: One staff, in bass clef.
- Percussion (Perc.)**: One staff, in bass clef.
- Vocal Soloist (A.)**: One staff, in treble clef.
- Chorus (M. O. N. K. S.)**: Two staves, both in bass clef.
- Violins (VL I, VL II)**: Two staves, both in treble clef.
- Viola (Vle)**: One staff, in treble clef.
- Violoncello (Vc.)**: One staff, in bass clef.
- Bass (B.)**: One staff, in bass clef.

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (p, pp, mf, dim, poco, pochiss), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (e.g., "sereno", "camp. soft", "mallet"). The lyrics for the vocal soloist are: "Not in the sky not in the midst of the sea". The chorus part includes the lyrics: "A - mi - ta bha Blessed one".