### Mass

### for Chamber Orchestra and Mezzo-Soprano

by

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Approved November 2018 by the Graduate Supervisory Committee:

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This fifteen-minute cyclical mass uses excerpts from the text of the Mass

Ordinary and is laid out into five movements and across three different languages: *Kyrie*(Latin), *Gloria* (Chinese), *Credo* (English), *Sanctus* (Chinese), and *Agnus Dei* (Latin).

Rather than following the tradition of celebrating devotion, this mass tells the story of the abuse of power in political and religious leadership. Movements sung in Latin represent the devout Christian base whose motives and inspiration remain pure and divine. The English movement, *Credo*, has been altered from the original and represents the manipulation and distortion of scripture, truth, and facts by self-serving leaders and politicians. Finally, Chinese movements represent those who are persecuted for their convictions and their identity.

The turmoil of the Chinese movements is characterized by atonality and fast tempos with contrasting, meditative, lyrical B sections. The outer Latin movements contain the familiar *Kyrie* and *Agnus Dei* texts in triple canon with the orchestra. The English middle movement is simultaneously familiar and awkward, with harmonies that almost function, under an altered *Credo* text. After an aria-like passage, the orchestra takes the "I believe" figure and manipulates it in a modal fugato, culminating in a climactic version of the main motive. A repeated double-dotted quarter note—sixteenth-note rhythm followed by a fast tremolo in the castanets make up the central "bangu motive." This motive is derived from traditional Beijing Opera, in which the bangu is the principal percussion element. As a rhythmic motive, fragments of it appear in every movement and in several different instrument groups. These fragments undergo various transformations before a version of it arrives as the final *Agnus Dei* rhythmic figure.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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### **INSTRUMENTATION**

# WINDS AND BRASS (SINGLE PLAYERS) Flute Oboe Clarinet in B-flat Bassoon Horn in F Trumpet in B-flat Trombone Tuba PERCUSSION (FOUR PLAYERS) 1. Timpani 2. Castanets 3. Small Gong 4. Bass Drum MEZZO-SOPRANO (SOLO) STRINGS (SINGLE PLAYERS OR SMALL SECTIONS) Violin 1 Violin 2 Viola Violoncello

Contrabass

#### TEXT AND TRANSLATION

Movement Text as appears in the score E

(Chinese Translation by Eric Xu)

KYRIE Kyrie eleison.

Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

GLORIA Tiān zhǔ zài tiān shòu guāng róng

Zhǔ ài de rén zài shì xiǎng píng ān

Zàn měi nín, chēng sòng nín

Cháo bài nín

Tiān zhǔ tiān shàng de jūnwáng Quán néng de Tiān zhǔ Shèng Fù

Zhǔ Yēsū Jīdū dú shēng zǐ

Tiān zhǔ de gāo yáng

Shèng Fù zhī zǐ

Chú miăn shì zuì zhě,

Qiú nín chuí lián wŏ Chú miǎn shì zuì zhě,

Qiú nín fũ tìng wŏ de qí dǎo Zuò zài Shèng Fù zhī yòu zhě

Qiú nín chuí lián wŏ

CREDO (Modified by Eric Xu)

I believe in one God the Father Maker of heaven and earth, And all things invisible.

Ah! I believe in the Virgin Mary

Who came to earth And was incinerated By the Holy Ghost. He was crucified for us,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

On the third day He rose,

At the right hand of the Father.

He shall return with glory to judge

Living and dead,

His kingdom shall have no end.

I believe I am righteous,

**English Translation** 

(Dr. Catherine Bowles Brazelton, NYU)

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Glory be to God in the highest.

And on earth peace to men of good will.

We praise Thee; we bless Thee; We worship Thee; we glorify Thee.

O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord Jesus Christ, The only begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father.

Thou that takest away The sins of the world, Have mercy upon me.

Thou that takest away
The sins of the world,

Receive my prayer. Thou that sittest

At the right hand of the Father,

Have mercy upon me.

So the same applies to me:

My Holiness can judge all lesser men.

I believe in one God the Father.

I believe in one holy Catholic church.

I acknowledge one baptism.

No more sin.

**SANCTUS** Shèngjié de, Shèngjié de,

Holy, Holy, Holy, Wàn zhǔ zhī zhǔ de Shàng Dì Lord God of Hosts

Tiāndì chōngmănle nǐ de róngyào. Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Zhìgāo de huānlè Hosanna in the highest.

Fèng yēhéhuá de, míng lái de, Blessed is He

Yŏufúle. That cometh in the name of the Lord.

Zhìgāo de huānlè Hosanna in the highest.

**AGNUS DEI** Agnus Dei, Lamb of God,

> Qui tollis peccata mundi, Who takest away

> > The sins of the world,

Miserere nobis. Have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei. Lamb of God. Dona nobis pacem. Grant us peace.

# MASS

### 1. KYRIE

















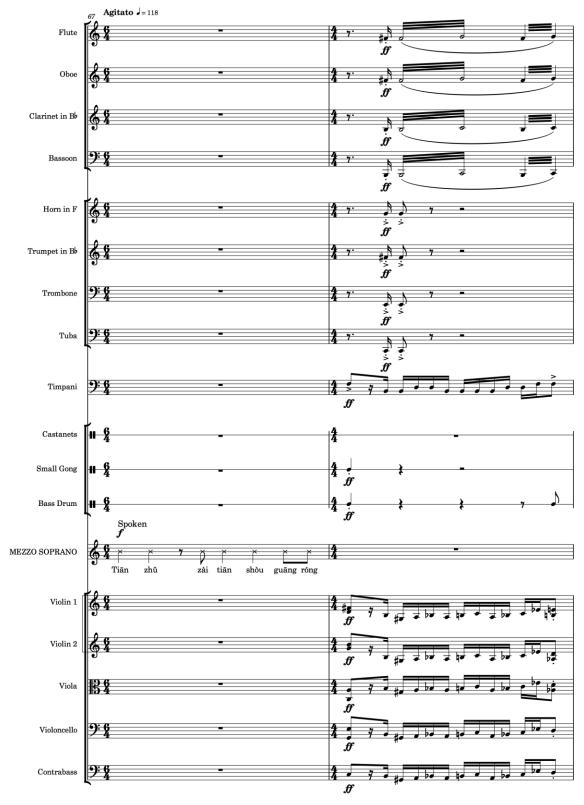








### 2. GLORIA (TIAN SHOU GUANG RONG)









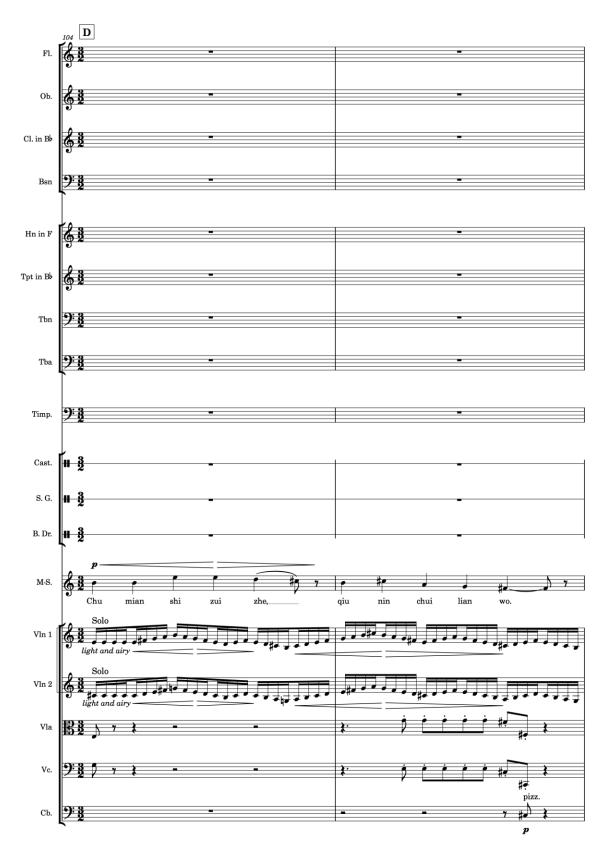


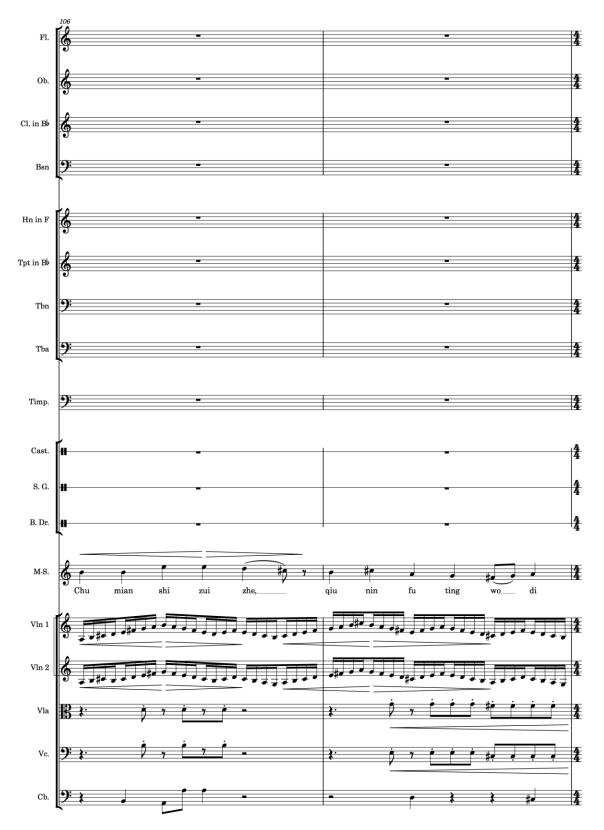






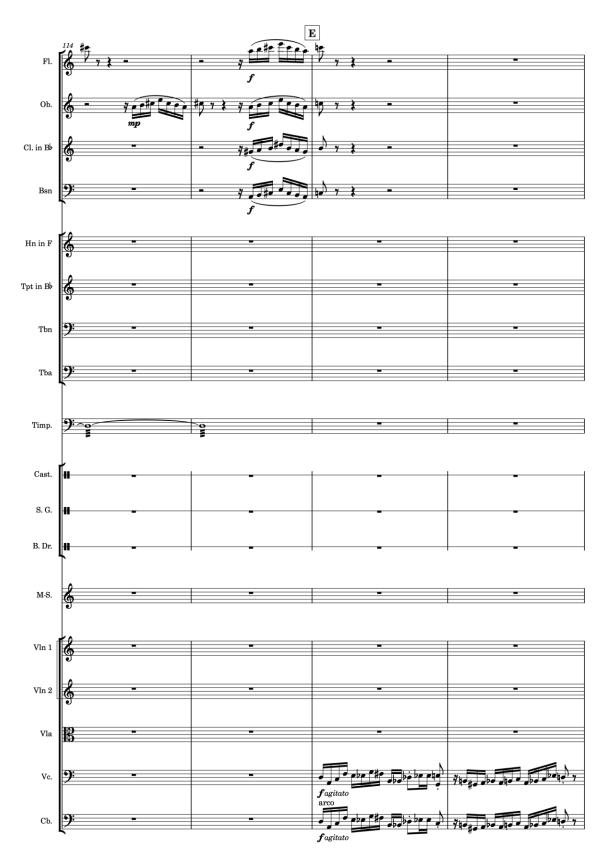














### 3. CREDO (I BELIEVE)



































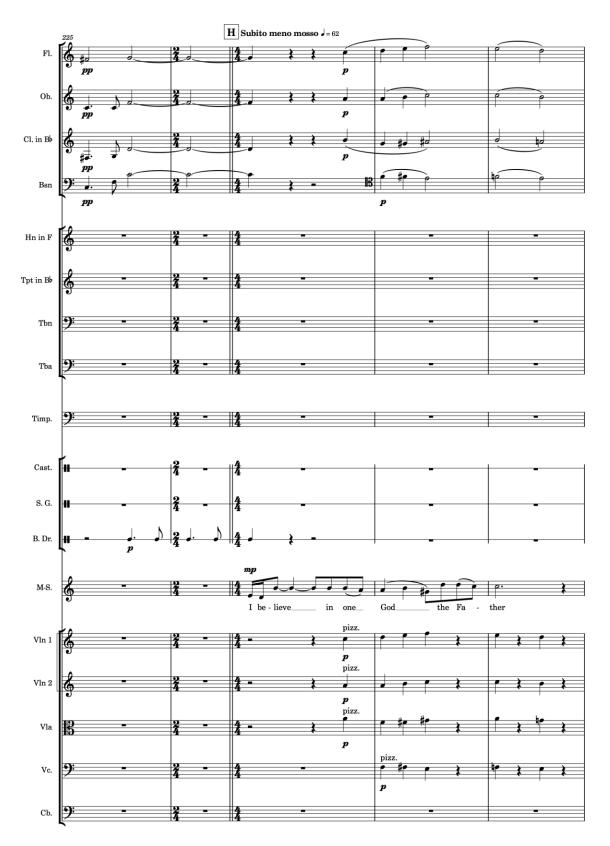
















## 4. SANCTUS (SHENGJIE DE)



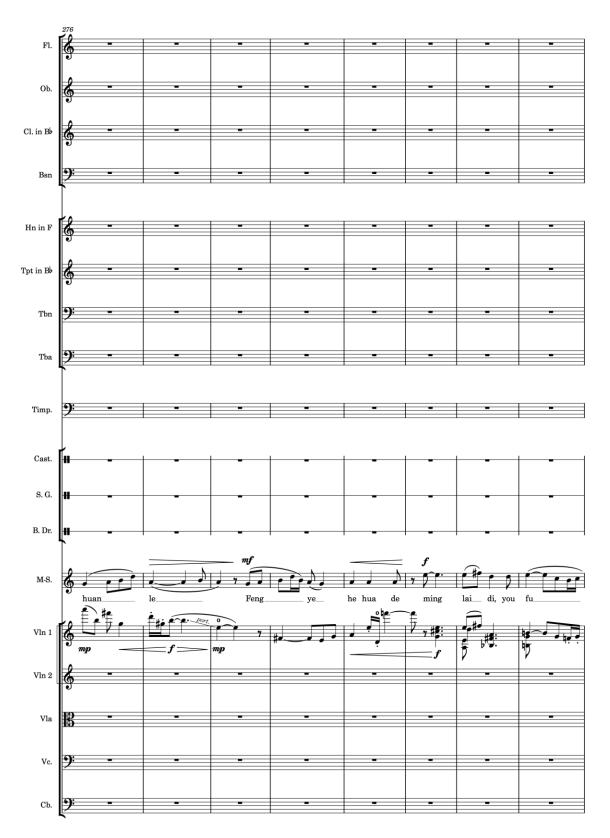












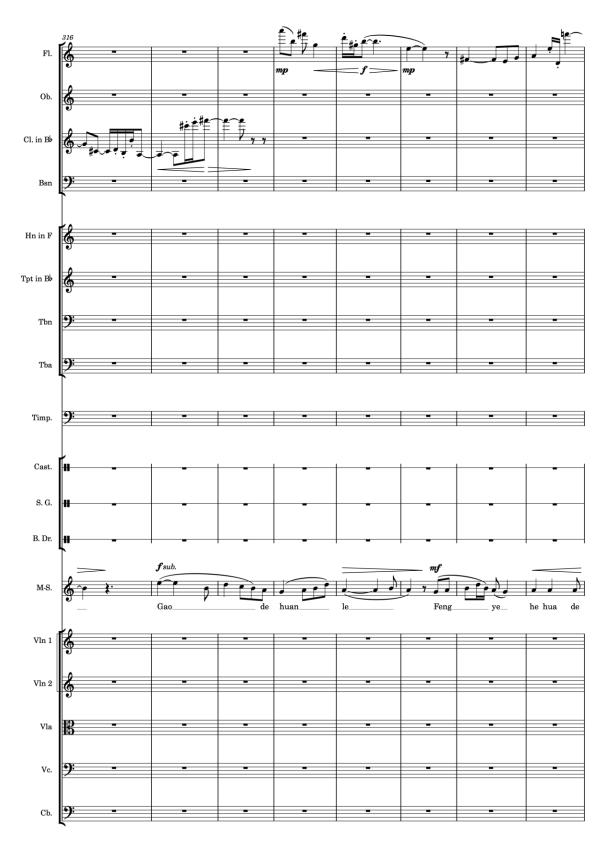




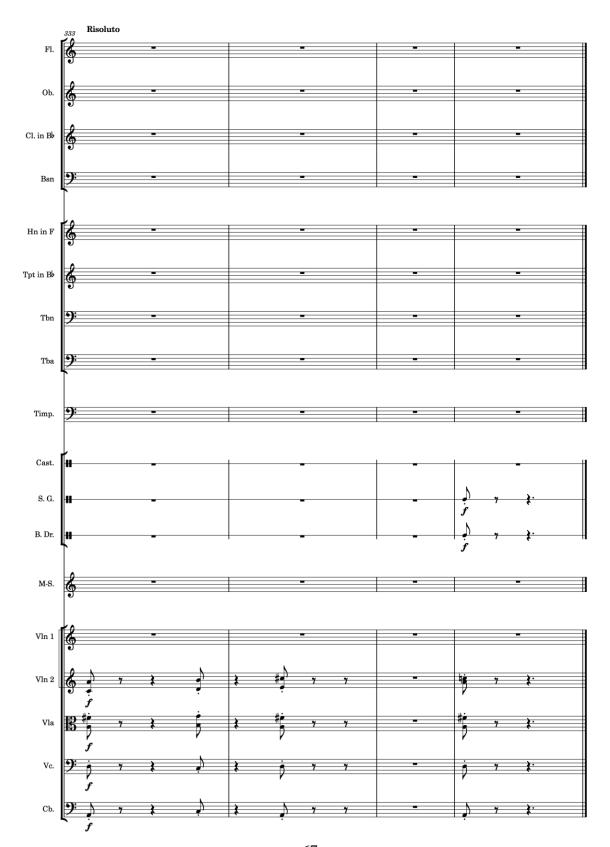












## 5. AGNUS DEI













