Final Journey

For Orchestra

by

Yuyao Shangguan

A Thesis Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Master of Music

Approved March 2021 by the Graduate Supervisory Committee:

Christopher Norby, Chair Jere Humphreys Jody Rockmaker

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ABSTRACT

I have always aspired to compose a large-scale orchestral piece which would be more than 5 minutes in length, rich in harmony and colorfully orchestrated. Impressionism and music for Hollywood films have influenced my music style. I have tried to emulate the harmony, textures and melody development. In preparation for this project, and I analyzed La Mer, and the orchestral arrangement of Image by Debussy, The Planets by Gustav Holst, and a number of works by John Williams. Carnival Chaos by my advisor, Dr. Christopher Norby, in particular, inspired me. The culmination of my own efforts is Final Journey, a 9minute work for full orchestra. I endeavored to mimic Debussy's colors. The main theme mm. 1-5, is built on a non-functional major-minor seventh chord that creates tension through raised and lowered pitches. The treble woodwind sections follow with dramatic dynamic changes that contrast with the earlier melody. Echoes of this tune can be found throughout the piece, for instance in mm. 61-77 and 169-176. The whole tone scale perfectly creates a mysterious and vague soundscape. The interaction between parts in the woodwind sections at mm. 43-60 and 107-121 are reminiscent of Hollywood-style orchestral techniques. The process of creation is also a process of learning. I believe I finally achieved my original goals. These valuable experiences will be the basis as I continue my career.

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Final Journey

For Orchestra

(2021)

Yuyao Shangguan

Instrumentation

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

English Horn

2 Clarinets in Bb

2 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F

3 Trumpets in Bb

2 Trombones

Bass trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Cymbals

Triangle

Glockenspiel

Piano

Harp

Violins 1

Violins 2

Violas

Cello & Double Bass

Final Journey

Composer: Yuyao Shangguan



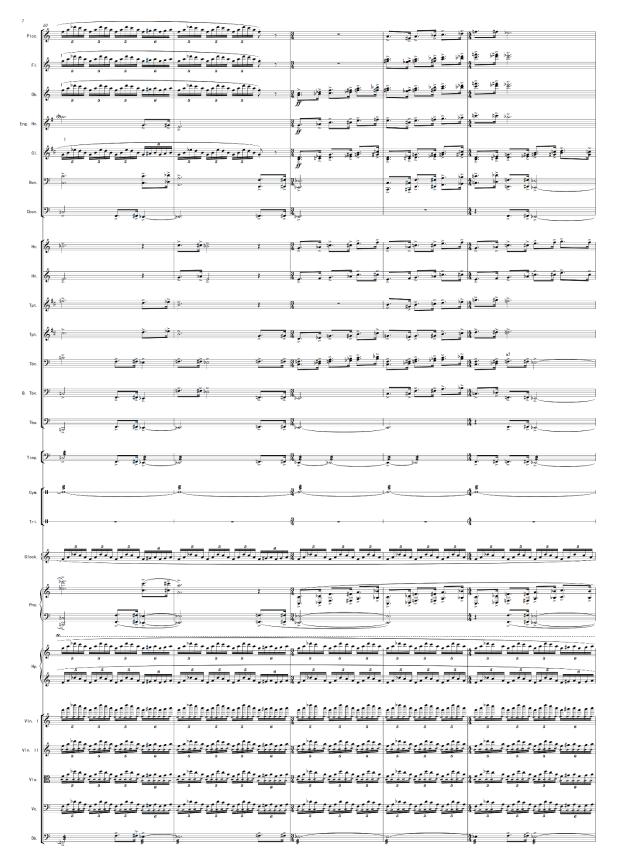
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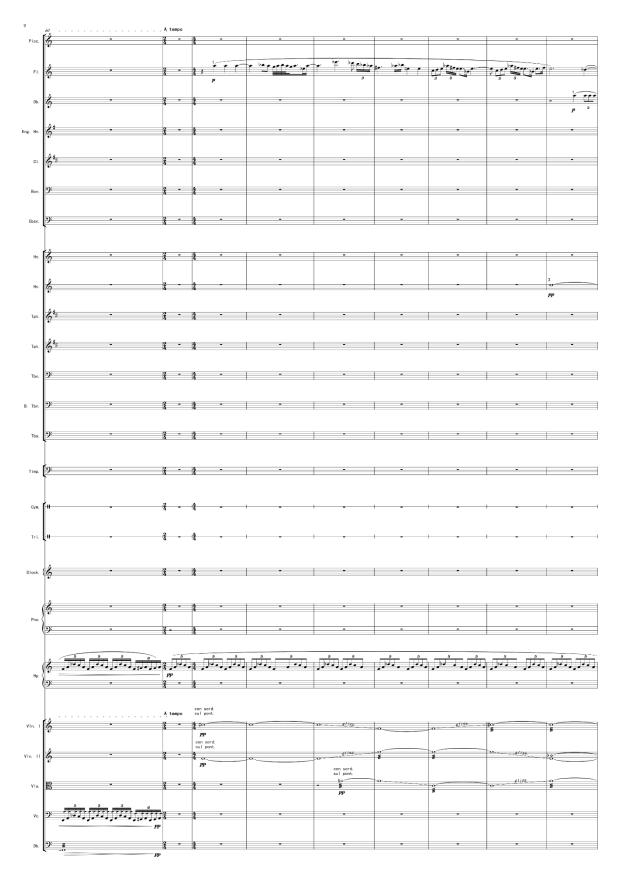


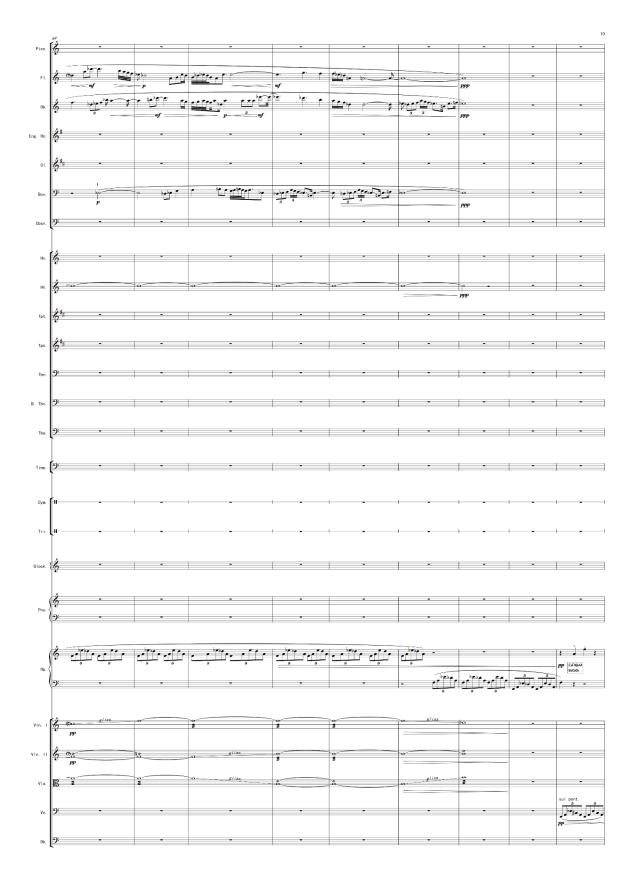


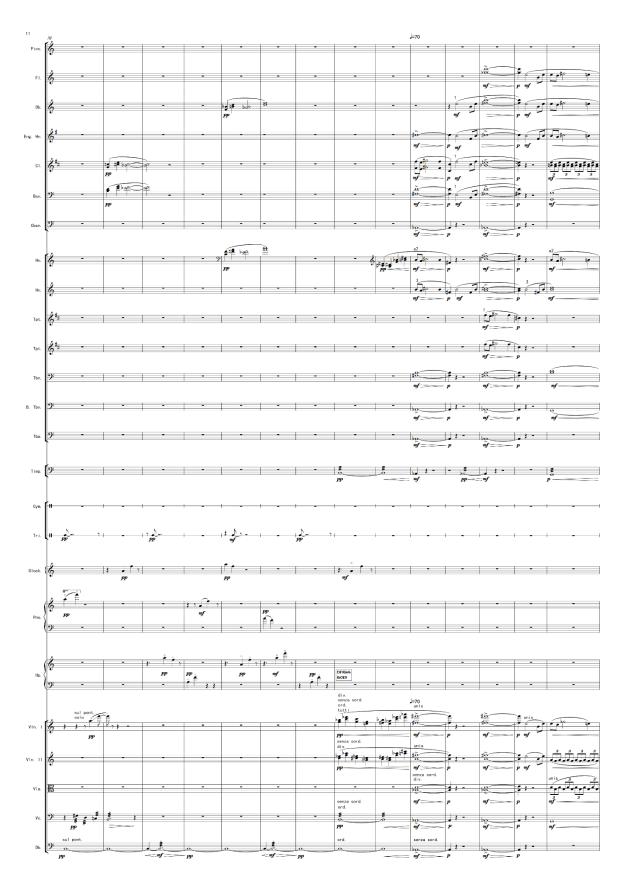
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