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Chen Yi 陈怡

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# Angel Island Passages

## 天使岛之路

*for Children's Chorus and String Quartet*

童声合唱与弦乐四重奏套曲

I. 1882

II. Longing

III. We Are America

Commissioned by the San Francisco Girls Chorus  
Premiered by the SFGC and the Cypress String Quartet  
June 4, 2010 at the San Francisco Conservatory, CA

Chen Yi (music and text)  
陈怡 (词曲)

Angel Island Passages (2010)  
For children's chorus and string quartet  
童声合唱与弦乐四重奏套曲 《天使岛之路》

- I. 1882
- II. Longing
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Commissioned by the San Francisco Girls Chorus (Executive Director Melanie Smith), and premiered by the SFGC and Cypress String Quartet on June 4, 2010, conducted by SFGC's Artistic Director Susan McMane, at the San Francisco Conservatory, CA, the 3-movement song cycle ANGEL ISLAND PASSAGES is written for children's chorus and string quartet, with multimedia projection on the walls of the concert hall, produced by visual artist Felicia Lowe.

The creative idea of this work was initiated by Dr. McMane, who invited me to write the music, and sent me the book *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940* by Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim, and Judy Yung for reference in 2009. The work was inspired by the Angel Island stories, in cooperation with Felicia, who shared with me her film "Carved in Silence" and video productions "Chinatown" and "Road to Restoration."

I named the first movement of my work as "1882," which reflected the dark mood under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The collective poems carved on the wooden walls in Angel Island expressed deep emotion in sorrow and anxiety. The music in the second movement "Longing" is sad and sentimental. The third movement is called "We Are America," which is ever-moving, energetic and optimistic. The text sung in the beginning in Chinese means "I am an American." It's sung in Cantonese dialect, then in Mandarin. As the music develops, from homophonic to polyphonic with increasing layers, the climax is reached when the text is turned to English "We Are America," which symbolizes the flourishing society with the great contribution from thousands of immigrants during the years. The music fades out towards the ending of the work, which pushes the scene to a remote picture, to look forward to the future peace of the world.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such inspiring creative artists in this project.

Score

# Angel Island Passages

for Children's Chorus and String Quartet

## I. 1882

CHEN YI  
(2010)

Duration: c.15'

♩ = 66

Musical score for Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The score is in 4/4 time and includes dynamics such as *f*, *fp*, and *ff*. It features various musical notations including triplets, slurs, and accents.



Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. This section includes detailed musical notation with dynamics like *pizz.* and *arco*, and includes a double bar line symbol.

Angel Island Passages (I. 1882)

Musical score for measures 5-6. The system includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measure 5 features a *gracioso* marking above the strings. Measures 5 and 6 contain complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sixteenth-note runs. Dynamic markings include *fp* and *f*. A *6* indicates a sixteenth-note run in measure 6.

Musical score for measures 8-10. The system includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measures 8 and 9 feature a *fp* marking with a *(V)* dynamic marking. Measure 10 features a *ff* marking. The music includes sixteenth-note runs and slurs. Dynamic markings include *fp*, *ff*, and *f*. A *5* indicates a sixteenth-note run in measure 10.

Musical score for measures 11-12. The system includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measures 11 and 12 feature complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sixteenth-note runs. Dynamic markings include *f*. A *5* indicates a sixteenth-note run in measure 11, and a *6* indicates a sixteenth-note run in measure 12.

Musical score for measures 13-15. The system includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Measures 13 and 14 feature a *fp* marking. Measure 15 features a *pp* marking. The music includes sixteenth-note runs and slurs. Dynamic markings include *fp*, *pp*, and *p*. A *5* indicates a sixteenth-note run in measure 15.

Angel Island Passages (I. 1882)

**A**  
17 *mp*

S 1  
Wu Wu

S 2  
Wu Wu

A 1  
Wu\_wu Wu

A 2  
Wu Wu

Vln. I  
*mf*

Vln. II  
*mf*

Vla.  
*mf*

Vc.  
*mf*

22 *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

S 1  
Wu Sa la la la la la ha

S 2  
Wu Sa la la la la la ha

A 1  
\* *f* *mf* *f* Sa la la la la la ha

A 2  
\* *f* *mf* *f* Sa la la la la la ha

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.  
S.P. *ff*

Vc.  
S.P. *ff*

\* Speech in breathy sound.

# II. Longing

*mp*  
♩ = 60

Soprano 1  
*m*  
*mp*  
*m*

Soprano 2  
*m*  
*mp*  
*m*

Alto 1  
*m*  
*mp*  
*m*

Alto 2  
*m*  
*mp*  
*m*

Violin I  
Violin II  
Viola  
Cello

5

S 1  
*p* *f* *p* *mf*  
*m*

S 2  
*p* *f* *p* *mf*  
*m*

A 1  
*p* *f* *p* *mf*  
*m*

A 2  
*p* *f* *p* *mf*  
*m*

Vln. I  
5 *con sord.* *mp* *mf* 1-1 2-2 *mp*  
3 3

Vln. II  
*con sord.* *mf* *p* *fp*

Vla.  
*con sord.* *mf* *p* *fp*

Vc.  
*con sord.* *fp*

10

S 1 *mp* *p*

S 2 *mp* *p*

A 1 *mp* *p*

A 2 *mp* *p*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

14 **A**

S 1 *mf* *mp*

S 2 *mf* *mp*

A 1 *mf* *mp*

A 2 *mf* *mp*

Vln. I *mp* *fp*

Vln. II *f* *mf* *fp*

Vla. *mp* *fp*

Vc. *mp* *fp*

18 *fp*

S 1 *fp* Wu

S 2 *fp* Wu

A 1 *fp* Wu

A 2 *fp* Wu

Vln. I *fp* *mf*

Vln. II *f* *mf*

Vla. *fp* *mf*

Vc. *fp*

21 *f* *p* *mp*

S 1 *f* *p* *mp* wu

S 2 *f* *p* *mp* wu

A 1 *f* *p* *mp* wu

A 2 *f* *p* *mp* wu

Vln. I *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. II *ff* *f*

Vla. *f* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *f* *p*

# III. We Are America

$\text{♩} = 120$

Violin I *senza sord.*

Violin II *mf senza sord.*

Viola *senza sord.* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *sim.*

Cello *senza sord.* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *sim.*

4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

7

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *mp*

10

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mf*

16

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*tr*

19

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*f*

*mp*

*f*

*mf*

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

*mp*

*mf*

*sim.*

*pizz.*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

*mf*

25 我係美國人 A  
 \* Sung in Cantonese: I am an American.

S 1

S 2

A 1 *mp*  
 \* Ngo Hey Mei Guo

A 2 *mp*  
 \* Ngo Hey Mei Guo

Vln. I A  
*p*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *p*

28

S 1

S 2 *mp*  
 \* Ngo

A 1 Jen. Ngo

A 2 Jen.

Vln. I *pizz.* *mp*

Vln. II arco *p*

Vla. arco *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *mp*

31

S 1 *mf* \* Ngo Hey

S 2 Hey Mei Guo Jen.

A 1 Hey Mei Guo Jen. *mf* Ngo

A 2 *mf* Ngo Hey

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

34

S 1 Mei Guo Jen.

S 2 *mf* Mei Guo Jen.

A 1 Hey Mei Guo Jen.

A 2 Mei Guo Jen.

Vln. I *arco* *fp*

Vln. II *fp*

Vla. *fp*

Vc. *arco* *fp*