

for
MARY FINDLEY

THE SEASONS OF NGO CHI LAN

violin solo

WALTER ROSS
1988

382. The four seasons[†] by Ngô Chi Lan

SPRING

Fresh radiance swirls and swirls—the heavens reel.
All towers and mansions bathe in light and warmth.
Swift orioles weave willows' silken threads.
Fleet butterflies slip into hearts of flowers.

On doorsteps sunbeams rest for longer days.
Face powder moist with sweat bespots green skirts.
The little child, who feels no vernal grief,
just leans against an ivory rail and smiles.

SUMMER

Windblown pomegranate flowers come whirling down.
The hammock-perched fair woman idly swings.
Upon its branch an oriole mourns spring.
Two swallows cry, bewailing vanished scenes.

Her needle stops. In silence, with pursed brows,
she nestles in her silks and woos a dream.
Curse those who raise the shades and wake her up!
Her soul could never join him in Liao-hsi.¹

AUTUMN

Through space flows autumn's essence, clear and pure.
A lone wild goose brings wing-borne news of fog.
The long-stemmed lotus fades in its jade well.
The maple leaves drop in cold Wu's night flood.

At nightfall fireflies flutter through blue rails.
Thin robes no longer can ward off chill winds.
The distant flute has hushed—she stays and dreams.
Oh, ride a phoenix bound for Jasper Tower!²

WINTER

Incense is burned in little silver bowls.
A cup of vintage wine warms cold, bleak dawn.
The breath of frost seeps in through flimsy blinds.
Winds blow and hurl snow flakelets into ponds.

She dwells behind embroidered drapes with fringe,
inside the windows papered and sealed tight.
A secret harbinger of spring's return:
one bud of plum has blossomed on the hills.

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¹In a well-known T'ang quatrain attributed to Chin Ch'ang-hsü, a woman wants to dream and see her husband who is garrisoned at a faraway outpost on the northeast border of China: "Shoo off that little oriole! / Don't let it perch up there and sing. / Its song awakes me from my dream: / I'll never reach him in Liao-hsi."

²Jasper Tower: the gods' palace in the fairyland of folk Taoism. These two lines allude to Hsiao Shih (the "Flute Master") and Nung-yü. See n. 8 to Poem 241.

Ngô Chi Lan (15th cent.)

A native of Kim-hoa District in Kinh-bắc (now Kim-anh District, Vinh-phú Province), she was the wife of Phù Thúc Hoàn, who taught *The Book of Changes* in the National College. Her literary talents were appreciated by King Lê Thánh-tông who entrusted her with the education of women in his harem.

♩ = 84 ma sempre rubato
Carezvole

SUMMER

First musical staff with dynamics: mp, mf, f, 5, p, mp, pp. Includes a fermata over the final measure.

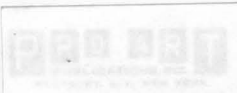
Second musical staff with dynamics: mf, 3, p, mf, pp, mf, 3. Includes a fermata over the final measure.

Third musical staff with dynamics: mp, punta d'arco, pp, mp, 3, p, mf, p, mp, mf. Includes a fermata over the final measure.

Fourth musical staff with dynamics: mp, p, mf, p, mf, p. Includes a fermata over the final measure.

Fifth musical staff with dynamics: mf, p, mp, mf. Includes a fermata over the final measure.

Sixth musical staff with dynamics: f, p, mf, f, mf, pp, 3, 3, mp, p. Includes a fermata over the final measure.



poco accel.

p 3 *mf* *p*

p

p

ritard. molto \rightarrow Tempo 1^o

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

poco accel \rightarrow rit. , Tempo 1^o

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

morendo

mp *p* *p* *pp* niente

3.

Affettuoso $\text{♩} = 48$ $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ sempre
con calore AUTUMN

mf

f mf p mp

poco accel - - - - -

tempo 1^o

p mp f p mf

p pp p pp mp

poco più mosso

accel. - - - - -

sul tasto

a tempo modo ord.

mp mf

f mf bp

poco accel.

$\text{♩} = 60$

p mp p mf f

poco rit. - - - - -

a tempo



Musical staff with notes and dynamics: *cresc. ...* *ff*

Musical staff with notes and dynamics: *molto rit. ... a Tempo ... poco meno. ...* *mf p mp f*

Musical staff with notes and dynamics: *a Tempo ... poco accel. ...* *mp mf*

Musical staff with notes and dynamics: *J. = 60 sussurando ... poco rit. ...* *p pp*

Musical staff with notes and dynamics: *Tempo 19 malinconico ...* *mf p mp f*

Musical staff with notes and dynamics: *morendo ...* *mf mp p pp*

5. *sempre con sordino*

WINTER

Lesto e agitato ♩ = 120

punta d'arco

First musical staff with notes and dynamics: *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*. Includes a *punta d'arco* marking.

Second musical staff with notes and dynamics: *p*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*.

poco meno mosso
sul ponticello

♩ = 96
modo ord.
leggermente

Third musical staff with notes and dynamics: *mp*, *pp*, *mf*.

Fourth musical staff with notes and dynamics: *poco rit.*, *punta d'arco*, *♩ = 120*, *p*, *sf*, *p*, *misterioso*.

Fifth musical staff with notes and dynamics: *sf*, *p*.

Sixth musical staff with notes and dynamics: *sf*, *p*, *mf*, *p cresc.*, *mf cresc.*.

con emozione
poco rit.

$\text{♩} = 96$
leggeremente, sempre rubato

... .. f ff sub.mp poco cresc.

tempo giusto
 $\text{♩} = 96$

punta d'arco

mf poco cresc. f p pp mp

poco a poco accel.

$\text{♩} = 120$

mf 3 p mf

sul ponticello

modo ord. rit. poco a poco ...

f sub.p sf p mp

$\text{♩} = 108$

$\text{♩} = 96$

$\text{♩} = 96$

mf f p mp

Via Sordino

p mf cresc. f p mf p pp

7. Allegramente ♩ = 80

SPRING

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#). The staff contains a melodic line starting with a forte (f) dynamic, followed by a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various slurs and accents.

Musical staff 2: Continuation of the melodic line from staff 1. Dynamics include forte (f) and fortissimo (ff). The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Musical staff 3: Continuation of the melodic line. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf), forte (f), and piano (p). The melody features a variety of note values and slurs.

Musical staff 4: Continuation of the melodic line. Dynamics include mezzo-piano (mp), mezzo-forte (mf), piano (p), and piano (p). The tempo marking "poco rit." is placed above the staff, and "a tempo" is placed above the final measure. The melody concludes with a fermata.

Musical staff 5: Continuation of the melodic line. Dynamics include forte (f), mezzo-forte (mf), and mezzo-piano (mp). The melody continues with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Musical staff 6: Continuation of the melodic line. Dynamics include piano (p), mezzo-forte (mf), and mezzo-piano (mp). The melody concludes with a fermata.

mf *f* *sub.p* *mf*

poco più mosso
f *mf* *f*

poco meno mosso Tempo 1°
mf *f*

poco rit. *mf* *mp*

Tempo 1° con tenerezza
p *mp* *mf* *mp*

rit. *p* *pp* *niente*
♩ = 66 *più lento*