



A composer cannot view the world in which he lives with indifference. Human suffering, oppression, injustice... all that comes to me in my thoughts. Where there is pain, where there is injustice, I want to have a say in it through my music.

I was born in Korea and project that culture, but I developed musically in Europe. I don't need to organise or separate elements of the cultures. I am a unity, a simple person. It's a synthesis.

10th anniversary of death 2005
ISANG YUN

Selected works

Operas

Der Traum des Liu-Tung (1965) 55'
(The Dream of Liu-Tung)

Opera with a prelude, four dream images and a postlude
Libretto by Winfried Bauernfeind based on the ancient Chinese didactic drama by Ma Chi-Yuan (14th century) in the translation by Hans Rudelsberger (G)
S,M,T,2Bar,B; optional chorus behind stage, also taped:
2(II=picc,afI).2(II=corA).1(=bcl).1(=dbn)-2.1.1.1-timp.perc(4)-harp-strings

Die Witwe des Schmetterlings (1968) 60'
(Butterfly Widow)

Opera in three scenes (one act)
Libretto by Harald Kunz based on a Chinese novel of the 16th century; English version by Robert Gay (G,E)
S,M,T,2Bar,B; chorus off-stage;
2(II=picc,afI).2(II=corA).1(=bcl).1(=dbn)-2.1.1.1-timp.perc(5)-harp-strings

Geisterliebe (1969/70) 130'
(Love of Spirits)

Opera in two acts
Libretto by Harald Kunz (G)
S,M,A,T,B; male and female chorus;
3(II,III=picc/afI).3(III=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-2.2.2.1-timp.perc(5)-harp-strings; on-stage: 3 Korean Jwago drums

Sim Tjong (1971/72) 130'

Korean legend in two acts with prologue and epilogue
Libretto by Harald Kunz (G)
10S,2M,3A,4T,4Bar,9B (doubled roles possible); chorus;
3(II=picc,III=picc/afI).3(III=corA).3(III=bcl).3(III=dbn)-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(3)-harp-cel-strings

Orchestra

Engel in Flammen (1994) 16'
(Angel in Flames)

Memento for orchestra
2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings
with **Epilogue** (1994) 6'
for soprano solo, female voices and 5 instruments
fl.ob-cel-vln.vlc
(*Epilogue* may be performed separately)

Muak (1978) 17'

Dance fantasy for large orchestra
3(III=picc).3.3.3-4.3.2.1-timp.perc(2)-strings

Réak (1966) 13'

for orchestra
3(=picc,afI).3(III=corA).3(III=bcl).2.dbn-4.3.2.1-timp.perc(4)-2harps-strings

Silla (1992) 15'

Legend for orchestra
2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.2.1.0-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings

Symphonies I-V

Symphony I (1983) 45'

4(III,IV=picc).4(IV=corA).4(IV=bcl).4(IV=dbn)-6.4.3.1-timp.perc(3)-harp-strings

Symphony II (1984) 32'

2(II=picc).2(II=corA).2.2-4.2.2.1-timp.perc(2)-strings

Symphony III (1985) 24'

2(I,II=picc).2.2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.2.2.1-timp.perc(2)-strings

Symphony IV „Im Dunkeln singen“ (1986) 33'

(“To Sing in the Dark”)
3(III=picc,afI).3(III=corA).3(III=bcl).3(III=dbn)-5.3.3.1-timp.perc(3)-strings

Symphony V (1987) 56'

for large orchestra and baritone solo,
based on poems by Nelly Sachs
3(III=picc,afI).2(II=corA).2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-4.2.3.1-timp.perc(4)-2harps-strings

Biographical Notes

Isang Yun was born on 17 September 1917 near Tongyong, South Korea, and received his first musical training (cello and composition) in Korea and Japan. Active opposition to the Japanese occupation resulted in his being imprisoned until the end of World War II. After gaining his freedom, he spent a period teaching music at Korean high schools and universities.

In 1956 Yun travelled to Europe to continue his studies in Paris and Berlin (with Boris Blacher), also attending the International Courses at Darmstadt. Yun became a West German citizen in 1971, having been a resident of West Berlin since 1964.

Yun was abducted from Germany by the Korean Park regime, who interned him from 1967-1969, and his release was followed by a period of political activity on behalf of the restitution of democracy in the country of his birth.

Following his return to Germany he taught (1969) at the Hannover State College of Music, becoming professor of composition at the State College of Arts (Hochschule der Künste) Berlin (1970-1985).

He was a member of the Hamburg and Berlin Academies of Arts, an honorary doctor at Tübingen University, and an honorary member of the ISCM. He was also a member of the Academia Scientiarum et Artium Europaea, Salzburg, among other distinctions (Großes Bundesverdienstkreuz).

Isang Yun died on 3 November 1995 in Berlin.

New Recordings

**Réak
Cello Concerto
Harmonia**
Jens-Peter Maintz
Deutsches Symphonie-
Orchester
Stefan Asbury
Capriccio 67 062



"Isang Yun's explicitly autobiographical Cello Concerto still burns with anger and freezes with pain... Jens-Peter Maintz responds with appropriate ferocity to the work's many turbulent episodes... profoundly serious, not a world away from the early orchestral scores of Xenakis, with a powerfully dramatic climax." (*Arnold Whittall, Gramophone 02/2004*)



**Bara / Fluktuationen
Dimensionen / Namu**
Peter Schwarz /
Dorothy Dorow / Maria de
Francesca / Slavka Taskova
NDR-Sinfonieorchester /
Radio-Sinfonie-Orchester
Berlin / Hiroyuki Iwaki /
Peter Ronnefeld / Hans
Zender / Michael Gielen
CD IYG 003 (International
Isang Yun Society)



**Piri
Quartet**
Heinz Holliger
Thomas Zehetmair
Ruth Killius
Thomas Demenga
ECM New Series 1848

Vocal

- Namo** (1971) 20'
for 3 sopranos and orchestra;
also version for soprano and orchestra (1975)
Text based on prayer formulas of the Mahayana
buddhism
3(II,III=picc).3.0.bcl.3(III=dbn)-4.0.3.1-timp.perc(6)-
vla(8).vlc(6).db(4); 3 Korean Jwago-drums to be played by singers
- „Teile dich Nacht“** (1980) 12'
(“Divide yourself, Night”)
Three poems by Nelly Sachs
for soprano and chamber ensemble
1.1.1.1-1.0.0.0-perc-harp(or pft)-strings(min.1.1.1.1.1)

Concertos

- Cello Concerto** (1976) 24'
2(I,II=picc,II=af).2.2(II=bcl).2(II=dbn)-3.2.2.0-timp.perc(2)-strings
- Flute Concerto** (1977) 22'
1.2.2.2-2.0.0.0-perc(2)-strings
Version for piano and flute by Holger Groschopp
- Oboe Concerto** (1990) 23'
2(II=picc).1.2.1-2.1.1.0-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings
- Violin Concerto No.1** (1981) 38'
2(II=picc).2.2.2-2.2.1.1-timp.perc(2)-harp-strings
- Violin Concerto No.3** (1992) 24'
with small orchestra
1.1.1.1-1.1.0.0-perc(2)-strings
Version for piano and violin by Holger Groschopp

Ensemble

- Chamber Concerto I** (1990) 18'
1(=picc).1.1.1-1.1.1.0-perc(1)-strings(min.1.1.1.1.1)
- Chamber Concerto II** (1990) 13'
ob(=corA)-trbn-perc-pft-vla.vlc.db
- Loyang** (1962) 15'
1.1.1.1-0.0.0.0-perc(4)-harp-vln.vlc(1 or 2)
- Pièce concertante** (1976) 15'
fl(=af).cl(=bcl)-perc-pft-vln.vla.vlc.db

Chamber

- Etudes** (1974) 23'
for solo flute(s)
- Glissées** (1970) 12'
for solo cello
- Images** (1968) 20'
for flute, oboe, violin and cello
- Interludium A** (1982) 11'
for piano
- Königliches Thema** (1976) 8'
(Royal Theme)
based on the *Musical offering* by JS Bach
for solo violin
- Piri** (1971) 11'
for solo oboe (also for clarinet)
- Shao Yang Yin** (1966) 8'
for harpsichord (also for piano)
- Seven Etudes** (1993) 29'
for solo cello
- Violin Sonata** (1991) 17'

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Jens Luckwaldt

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Felicitas Timpe

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Isang Yun, *Symphony V*,
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fourth movement

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BOOSEY & HAWKES
BOTE & BOCK GmbH & Co. KG
ANTON J. BENJAMIN GmbH
Lützowufer 26
10787 Berlin
Tel.: +49 (30) 25 00 13-0
Fax: +49 (30) 25 00 13-99
composers.germany@boosey.com

BOOSEY & HAWKES Limited
Aldwych House
71-91 Aldwych
London WC2B 4HN
Tel.: +44 (20) 7054 7200
Fax: +44 (20) 7054 7293
composers.uk@boosey.com

BOOSEY & HAWKES Inc.
35 East 21st Street
New York, NY 10010
Tel.: +1 (212) 358-5300
Fax: +1 (212) 358-5306
composers.us@boosey.com

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