

Rain Coming (1982)

By Tōru Takemitsu (1930-1996)

Toru Takemitsu is considered one of the most important Japanese composers who incorporated Western musical tradition, while preserving the Japanese sound through use of traditional and Western instruments to create his own individual sound. He was influenced by Debussy, who was a French Impressionistic composer. At 16, he decided that he wanted to become a composer and basically taught himself with influence from many styles of music including jazz listening to the music of Duke Ellington. He also was quite famous for composing film scores for over 93 Japanese movies and he also composed a score for the American Film, ***Rising Sun***.

His music is descriptive with tone colors which clash, smear and have sweeping sounds which can carry your imagination to see colors and patterns. In ***Rain Coming***, please listen and create in your own mind what picture you can see with the free flowing tones, which change with the timbre of the different instruments. Instead of a steady beat, the composition is like a “sound painting” which can inspire you to paint where your imagination will carry you. ***Rain Coming*** is part of a larger work described in the next paragraph.

The symbolic metaphor for this piece, ‘rain’ or ‘water’, is a concept that frequently appears in the body of Takemitsu’s work. This was particularly true at the time when this work was composed, in the early part of the 1980s. Takemitsu wrote in his notes for the score of ***Rain Coming*** that “[...] the complete collection [is] entitled “**Waterscape**” [...] it was the composer's intention to create a series of works, which like their subject, pass through various metamorphoses, culminating in a sea of tonality.” Throughout these works, the S-E-A motive (Es-E-A) features prominently, and points to an increased emphasis on the melodic element in Takemitsu's music that began during this later period.

Please listen to ***Rain Coming*** quietly and closing your eyes may help you use your imagination to picture a scene where water is the subject and intent of the composer, Toru Takemitsu. Then use your creativity to paint your impression on paper, which can be abstract, impressionistic or whatever your artistic mind will see. Enjoy and we will look forward to some fantastic paintings for our Fusion of Concert Colors Program.

The pictures selected from each school will be exhibited in the Ian and Mimi Rolland Center, Hallway Gallery on the campus of the University of St. Francis. The installation and reception for students and family will be on December 12th and will be displayed until January 17, 2010. Pictures of all these paintings will be on a screen above the Fort Wayne Philharmonic when they play ***Rain Coming*** at the FAME Festival at the Grand Wayne Center on Sun. March 14, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. Please put these dates on your calendar.

