

Process Journal

Jan 28th 2016

We were first introduced to the unit of storytelling today, and I was searching for a story to choose in order to create my final product. The story I chose was called "The Strawberry" and I decided to choose this story because it was a zen tale coming from Japan, where the culture was very similar to my own. In addition, I liked the way the story ended where the story begins with the main character being chased by terrifying tigers, and ending up tasting the most delicious strawberry ever. My first impression of the story was that the ending was just random and funny, but as I thought more and analyzed the story in my mind, I knew that the story wasn't just about tasting strawberries. I wanted to develop the motif of the story more thoroughly, so I chose to experiment with this story and create my own composition to add my emotions and personal thoughts as well. My initial thought on creating a composition for this story is that my composition will be inspired by the way The Carnival of Animals were composed, just like the variety of movements created for each animal; it will be a type of program music. My story will be portrayed with a simple melody line representing a specific scene or a significant action in chronological order as the story develops so that the composition matches the story completely.

February 4th 2016

Today we completed our first draft of the proposal to begin with our creation of the composition. My proposal was a simple page stating my artistic intention and proposal on what

and how my composition will be created. Initially I noted that I will be utilizing orchestral instruments to showcase each action occurring in the story. I am thinking of utilizing the tuba or trombone to represent the blood thirsty tigers chasing the man. The reason why I decided on this was because the low brass is able to create an enlarged volume of unified bass sound which relates to the characteristics of the tigers. The mice will be portrayed with articulation such as staccato or marcato to imitate the light, fast movements of the mice and the mice threatening the man's life. I will be adding a variety of instruments that will be spotlighted for each melody for a specific action. I specifically made it clear by myself that I would be using the drum set because the drum set includes a variety of sounds that can support the side sound effects and deliver a more effective and efficient composition. Separately, I did a little research on the story's background, setting and culture it developed from. The story was a zen tale originating from Japan, and from a resource I found out that the historical influences affected the creation of the story. Buddhism originated from India and spread to the Far East Asian countries through the Silk Road. When Buddhism reached East Asia, the influence was enormous and the countries rapidly adapted to the religion. The most significant morality of Buddhism is 'karma' which means the state of one's past life, which could be seen as to live the moment of your life with integrity. I was able to relate the morality of Buddhism with the story, in the story the tigers chasing the man represented the fear in the present, the mice gnawing on the vine symbolized the time running out, the tigers below the cliff represented the pain an individual will go through in the future and at last, the delicious strawberry leaves a message that life will never be as sweet when it is in danger. With this overall motif of the story, I wanted to create a program music with graceful sound even with the separated melody lines for each scene.

February 7th 2016

Today I recorded my first video of the progression of my creation of the composition. Until now I worked on the beginning of my composition. I decided that I'd use the tuba to portray the movement of the tigers chasing the man because I'm really familiar with the instrument as I've been playing the tuba for quite a long time and I felt that it'll be a lot easier for me to apply my expressions with an instrument that I'm comfortable with. The tuba usually plays very low notes on the bass clef so I utilized low notes to create a more dull, enormous and masculine expression of the tigers. Also, I've been trying to utilize other instruments to back up on the tuba's melody, I didn't want to just have the tuba play a line and other instruments resting because I wanted to make the most out of the instruments I will be utilizing. I felt that the piano can easily play a harmony because the piano is played with all fingers, so I decided to place the piano in my composition as well. Later on I will be adding more whole notes to be played by the instruments to support the tiger's melody and the drum set will play a continuous rhythm to have the composition sound more finalized. So far the instruments that play a melody includes the tuba and the alto saxophone, but I already decided that the instruments mentioned above would be in consideration of the composition. I decided that the alto saxophone will be utilized to convey the melody of him almost falling off the cliff because a woodwind instrument will be able to imitate the winds blowing off of the cliff.

March 13th 2016

The second recording of my composition was submitted today, and until now I've been developing on the harmony and background support of the other instruments. I finalized the beginning part (tiger) of the story and moved on to the part where the man runs until he realizes that there is a cliff. I wanted to show the thrill of him almost falling off and not knowing what to do when the tigers are about to chase him down. In order to display the specific emotion, I decided that I'd use the trumpet which contains of a loud and powerful sound. I also thought that the winds blowing and the main character being stationary on the edge of the cliff could be depicted through one of the woodwind instruments because those instruments are capable of playing notes with a slightly windy effect, therefore I decided that the alto saxophone would take part in conveying the general scene of the main character reaching the cliff. The trumpet would add onto this by playing staccato notes. For this scene I wanted the audience to feel the thrill, an anti climax of being nervous on how the main character is going to survive. I think the articulation of staccato was best at delivering this expression. I used the piano to transition from the cliff scene to the mice gnawing onto the vine. The chronological scale the piano plays portrays him falling down to grab onto the vine and also transitions into the next part.

March 18th 2016

I recorded my last (third) process of my composition before I performed my finalized composition. The components that I added after I recorded my second video included adding the melodies for the next scene of the story. I composed a melody until the main character throws himself down the vine and realizes there were more tigers below the cliff. The next scene of the story is the mice gnawing on the vine he was holding onto, and I wanted to use the trumpet for

the melody line because the trumpet was able to create notes that are short but powerful, and it could possibly deliver the scene of the vines becoming demolished. Followed by this, I extended the melody hooking up with the next scene where he finds an eye-catching strawberry. Since the strawberry part was the most significant scene of the story and it was intended to be the climax, I want to be using all instruments to convey the specific scene. Until now, there isn't just one melody line, there are a few including the trumpet and violin. I also included articulations and dynamics; staccato and crescendo for a lot of parts of the composition because I thought the staccato could help derive the idea of the mice threatening the man's life and the crescendo helped me build up to a climax point. In order to utterly finalize my composition next, I'm planning on having the current melody last for a few other measures and having all instruments join the playing towards the end. I'm planning on using the crescendo for the last one of two measures of the composition for most of the instruments, and having the key melody lines to be forte or fortissimo and back up bass lines as mezzo forte.