



*Beyond
The
Music -
Elaine
Huang*

By always seeking to bring joy, beauty and humour to both her art and music, she strives to combine technique with personality and inspiration.

Through her paintings, her passion shines through not only in her skill in making each painting stand out on their own but being able to tell a story as a whole.

Her training as an accountant has developed sharp analytical skills which has allowed her to apply these skills whilst seeking freedom within the constraints in the journey of artistic pursuit.

Programme

Frühlingsstimmen (Voices of Spring) by Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)

German:

Sonnenschein, ah dringt nun ein,
ah, alles lacht, ach, ach, erwacht!
Die Lerche in blaue Höh entschwebt,
der Tauwind weht so lau;
sein wonniger milder Hauch belebt
und küßt das Feld, die Au.
Der Frühling in holder Pracht erwacht,
ah alle Pein zu End mag sein,
alles Leid, entflohn ist es weit!

Da strömt auch der Liederquell,
der zu lang schon schien zu schweigen;
klingen hört dort wieder rein und hell
süße Stimmen aus den Zweigen!

O Sang der Nachtigall, holder Klang, ah ja!
Liebe durchglüht, ah, ah, ah,
tönst das Lied, ah und der Laut,
süß und traut, scheint auch Klagen zu tragen,
ah ah wiegt das Herz in süße Traumerein,
ah, ah, ah, ah, leise ein!
Kaum will entschwinden die Nacht,
Lerchensang frisch erwacht, ah,

Ah des Frühlings Stimmen klingen traut,
ah ja, ah ja ah o süßer Laut,
ah ah ah ah ach ja!

English:

Sunshine, you warm us,
ah, all is laughing, oh, oh awakes!
The lark rises into the blue,
the mellow wind mildly blowing;
his lovely mild breath revives
and kisses the field, the meadow.
Spring in all its splendour rises,
ah all hardship is over,
sorrow becomes milder!

A fountain of songs is rising,
who has been silent for too long;
from the brush sounds clear and light
the sweet voice again!

Oh, song of the nightingale, sweet sound, ah yes!
Glowing with love, ah, ah, ah,
sounds the song, ah and the sound,
sweet and cosy, seems to carry a plaintive note,
ah, ah rocks the heart to sweet dreams,
ah, ah, ah, ah, most gently!
As haltingly vanishes the night,
the lark starts to sing, ah,

Ah springs voices sound like home,
Ah yes, ah yes oh sweet sound,
Ah, ah, ah, ah, ah yes!

上美的花 The Fairest Bloom by 萧泰然 Tyzen Hsiao (1938 –2015)

Chinese:

上美的花 請問妳
上美的花 開在哪
我愛伊 永遠未斂
我愛伊 永遠未謝
我愛伊 永遠清香
我愛伊 永遠美麗
我聽見花偷偷的跟我講：
我沒開在 Rocky
我沒開在 Canyon
我孤開在妳心中
妳日夜思念的故鄉
上美的花

English:

The fairest bloom, may I ask you?
The fairest bloom, where do you blossom?
I love you. It will never be ceased,
I love you, it will never be faded,
I love you, it will always smell fresh,
I love you, it will always be beautiful!
The flower told me secretly.
I did not blossom at Rocky,
I did not blossom at Canyon,
I only blossom in your heart,
The homeland you miss all day,
The fairest bloom.

References:

- 1) English translation of Frühlingsstimmen obtained from Wikipedia
- 2) English translation of 上美的花 from Yahoo Answers



Frühlingsstimmen (Voices of Spring)

Johann Strauss II, also known as Johann Strauss Jr., was an Austrian composer of light music, particularly dance music and operettas. In his lifetime, he was known as "The Waltz King", and was largely then responsible for the popularity of the waltz in Vienna during the 19th century.

Music: In "Frühlingsstimmen," the soprano voice is treated as a solo instrument to create a soaring melody line accompanying the orchestra. This results in a glorious sound with the lyrics not overpowering it, conjuring an atmosphere enjoyable to all who hear the song. The voice in this German waltz transcends all languages due to its musicality and animated nature.

Art: While singing this song, she was inspired by the aura of the spring bloom to create an artwork which combined both traditional Chinese ink painting techniques and calligraphy with western acrylic paint on canvas. The main theme during spring bloom for the Chinese would be the indispensable family (家) reunion dinner which is depicted in the calligraphy.

Inspiration: The sweet agile voice of Christine McIntyre from the comedy, 3 Stooges, has always lingered in her mind since young due to its close imitation to a bird singing. The comedic rendition of the opera imbued in her young curious mind an interest in singing the range and exploring stories. She hopes to bring it to life by sharing her childhood memories with her daughter, Kristi Hwang, the accompaniment.

Reference: <http://www.wilmingtonsymphony.org/program-notes/voices-of-spring>

上美的花

The Fairest Bloom

Tyzen Hsiao (蕭泰然) was known as “Taiwan’s Rachmaninoff” who used the spirit of Taiwanese folk melody as the core and meld it into the classical, romantic, impressionistic and modern styles of music to form the basis for the neo-Taiwanese music style.

Music: Taiwan has gone through tumultuous changes economically, socially and politically. This has shaped their rich cultural history and especially its music. He mixed traditional Chinese folk music elements with his own distinct artistic identity to create this native Hokkien song. Using this folk song, he expresses his homesickness by lamenting the absence of a beautiful bloom in the stream.

Art: The term subject in art refers to the main idea of the piece that is represented in the artwork. The subject in art which is “The Fairest Bloom” is missing in this painting depicting the feeling of homesickness and emptiness.

Inspiration: This song has brought nostalgia to me about my homesick grandmother who shared with me stories in Hokkien about her homeland China. She spoke of the Manchu dynasty, founding of modern China and World War 2, which the song personifies, by lamenting about her inability to return to her homeland due to the closure of borders of China.

Reference: Taiwan composer Tyzen loses cancer battle, Taipei Times, 26 February 2015.

