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MING-HSIU YEN

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THE  
WIRE DANCER

FOR SOLO VIOLIN

(2016)

Commissioned by the Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy Conservatory Competition

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# THE WIRE DANCER

## for solo violin (2016)

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### PROGRAM NOTES:

**The Wire Dancer** for solo violin (2016) was inspired by tight-wire walking, a skill that requires perfect balance while walking along a tensioned wire and has a long tradition associated with the circus. In the circus, the performance may include dance or object manipulation. Outside of the circus, some performances can take place at a great height and over a great distance to increase excitement.

Similar to tight-wire artists, violinists also have to maintain perfect balance of their bow over all four strings of the instrument. Their physical actions are transformed into the art of sound, and the act of “dancing” on these “wires” creates a boundary-less world, full of imagination and creativity.

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**DURATION:** ca. 7 minutes & 15 seconds

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### BIOGRAPHY OF THE COMPOSER:

**Ming-Hsiu Yen** (b. 1980) is an internationally-acclaimed composer and pianist. Born in Taiwan, she has collaborated with conductors, such as Osmo Väskä, Shao-Chia Lü, Alexander Drčar, Kenneth Kiesler, and Adrian Schneider, and with such orchestras as the Minnesota Orchestra, Taiwan Philharmonic, YinQi Symphony Orchestra and Choir (Taiwan), Dunshan Symphonic Wind Orchestra (China), University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra, Taipei National University of the Arts Symphony Orchestra, and by such ensembles as PRISM Quartet, Brave New Works, OSSIA, Music From China, among others.

Her compositions have been frequently presented in music festivals and concerts, including the Taiwan Philharmonic Europe Concert Tour (Berlin, Geneva, Udine) and China Concert Tour (Xiamen, Hong Kong), the Dunshan Symphonic Wind Orchestra Taiwan Tour Concerts (Taipei, Tainan), Louisiana Bass Fest, Spring Autumn Music (Taipei), Nong Project (Seoul), International Alliance for Women in Music Annual Concert (New York), Bass2012 Copenhagen, The Intimacy of Creativity (Hong Kong), Asian Composers League Conference (Taipei), Minnesota Orchestra Composers Institute, Pacific Music Festival (Sapporo), Aspen Music Festival, etc.

Ms. Yen holds degrees from the University of Michigan (DMA in composition; MM in composition and in piano performance) and the Eastman School of Music (BM). Her primary composition teachers have included Bright Sheng, William Bolcom, Betsy Jolas, David Liptak, Ricardo Zohn-Muldoon, Christopher Rouse, Steven Stucky, and Gordon Shi-Wen Chin.

She is currently Associate Professor of Composition and Theory at the Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan. She has also served as Adjunct Associate Professor/Composer-in-Residence at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and taught music theory at the University of Michigan.

(Website: [www.minghsiuyen.com](http://www.minghsiuyen.com))

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for solo violin

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(2016)

Adagio, ♩ = ca. 66

sul pont.

Violin

(s.p.) → ord.

s.p. → ord.

ff sf n ff sf

4 n p mf f s.p. → ord.

7 s.p. → ord. mf p

10 s.p. ord. mp f sf

12 ff s.p. → ord. mf f mf

14 *ff* *p* *f*  
s.p. → ord. (ord.) → s.p. ord.

17 *ff* *sf sf sf sf sf* *mp* *p* *n*

20 *mf* *pp* *n*

23 *pp sempre*

26 *ppp* *mp*

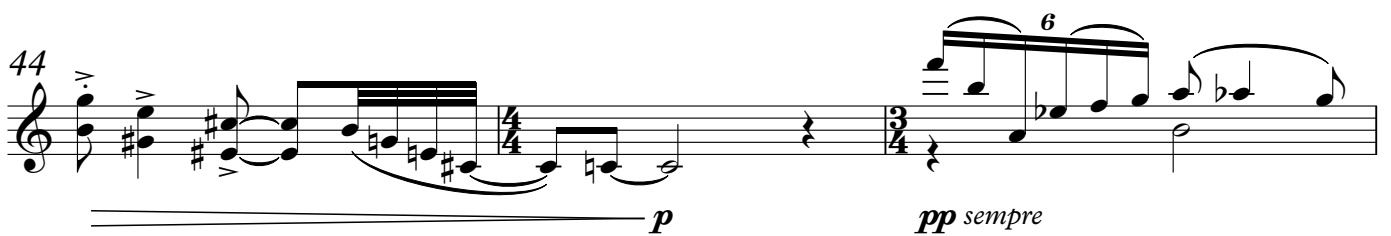
29 *pp* *mp* *ppp* *pp*

32   
*p* *mp*

35   
*mf* *p*

38   
*p*

41   
*mp* *f*

44   
*p* *pp sempre*

47   
*p*

49

*mf*

51

*ff*

54

*mf f*

57

*mp mf p*

(ord.) → s.p.      ord.      → s.p.      ord.      → s.p.

60

*sf mf p sf ff mf sf*