

Task 2 Proposal

The story I chose has the title of 'The Strawberry', it is a zen tale from Japan. The main character is being chased by a terrific tiger, and ends up at a cliff where he isn't able to escape. Therefore, he swung himself down the cliff while holding onto a vine and finds out that there were more tigers down the cliff. At the same time, two mice were gnawing onto the vine he was holding onto. That's when he saw a fresh and red looking strawberry. He quickly picks it up with his other hand and he realizes how delicious it tastes.

In the beginning of the story, the main character is being chased by a terrifying tiger. The story starts off with the man being chased, therefore, the atmosphere would be hustling and scary. When the character finds out that there's a cliff and there's nowhere else to escape, the ambience should reach a climax where the horror and worries are depicted. Overall, the story builds up on the fear and horror until it reaches the ends where he eats the strawberry and drowns in delight. Although the terrifying tigers are the main focus in the beginning of the story, the most important feature of the story seems to be focused on the delicious strawberries. The part where the man picks up the delicious strawberries is not a random act, the morality of this story is that when life is at its dullest and worst trouble, life never tastes sweeter. The story also revolves around the religion of Buddhism, so the main component is about living the moment. During this time period in Far East Asia, Buddhism first entered the area through the Silk Road from India. Buddhism became one of the main religions of Far East Asia not very long after, and

the main idealism of Buddhism was to be moral in the time being for a better future. The tigers chasing the man in the beginning symbolizes the pain caused from the past, the tigers below the cliff represents the troubles in the future, the vine the man desperately hangs onto is the present pain and the mice gnawing on the vine means the scarcity of time.

My artistic intention is to create a composed music that correctly fits the ambience of the story I explained previously. I want the music to add the exact feeling of the story. Although the story comes from Japan, I'm not planning on using any traditional instruments that come from Japan because my artistic intention is to carry out the morality of the story rather than showcasing the culture, although the Japanese culture influences the story thoroughly. Adding another component to the storytelling will cause more chaos in this case. My composition will be a created program music through the usage of Finale.

My plan is to tell this story without any narration or words at all, I want to emphasize specific scenes with the music I'll be creating in chronological order so that the composition matches the story. For example, I will be creating a specific melody for the tigers chasing after the man, and the sound of the man's hustle, the mice gnawing on the vine and the man tasting the most delicious strawberries. I'm planning on using orchestral instruments such as the tuba, piano, trumpet, violin, alto saxophone and the drum set; similar to the video we watched in class, where the story was told by having each character a specific melody created by the orchestral instruments. I wanted to do the similar thing but without the narrations in between and no words. I want to have my music imitate the sound of the tiger's voice; an example would be one of low

enormous brass instruments such as the tuba. The sound of the mice would have a high pitch so maybe one of the melody instruments but with a squeaky dissonance will be used. My story builds up to a climax where the man has nowhere else to escape, therefore I will have my composition have dynamics to build up to the climax point by using a crescendo and or putting fortissimo for the climax and mezzo forte for the beginning of the story. I also want to use the percussion to imitate the comical components of the story such as the man picking up the strawberry randomly in the middle of dangling off of the cliff. The percussion will add the little side effects of the story, and each melody will represent the specific movement of an animal or act with different instruments taking the lead of the melody. The structure of the composition will reflect the structure of the story, as the story builds to the climax, the composition will develop to its main point with the utilization of dynamics; crescendo. In addition, for the main key points from the story where the animals symbolize a component of life, each component will be showcased with a specific articulation to have a unique representation. The footsteps of the man being chased by the tigers will be depicted through staccato.

The personal identity of myself showcases through this story because I feel that as a teenager we have a lot of difficulties that we have to go through before becoming an adult. There are things we desire to do, juxtaposed by the things we are required to accomplish. We still struggle on how to correctly live the adolescence stage of our life, on the other hand, I feel that I can enjoy this stage of my life the most because we are still very young and we won't be able to enjoy the young moments of our lives in a few years. This relates to the morality of the story; when life is at danger, it can also be the sweetest moment. The cultural identity is that the

story/tale comes from Japan, and in Far-East Asian countries, tigers were abundantly existent in mountains and people were often horrified by the strong animals. The tigers symbolized authority, and masculine value and it was often represented for very macho expressions. The tigers were purposely put in this story that chases the man to create a terrifying mood and atmosphere, for a greater creation of fear. On the other hand, the mice are small creatures but are known to be a fast, and intelligent. Therefore, the mice are portrayed to be triggering the last risk of the man by gnawing onto the vine he was holding onto. The animals are portrayed in the story based on the cultural values of Japan, and how animals were represented in the culture of Far East Asia.

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Bibliography

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