

The Sun's Demise

String Orchestra (3 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, double bass) and Piano



Beat Bow Orchestral Production

Violins: Roberto Izzo,

Violas: Lorenza Merlin,

Cellos: Stefano Cabrera

Double Bass: Andrea Gabriele De Venuto

Piano: Gianluca Barragato

In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan.

The title "The Sun's Demise" relates the atomic bomb and to Japan itself.

The bomb detonates through a nuclear fission process, and is effectively like a small Sun that strikes the Japanese cities with terrible force.

However, the Sun then represents Japan itself, the Land of the Rising Sun. The atomic bomb effectively destroyed Japan in 1945. Indeed, it was as if two Suns had collided, mutually destroying each other.

The piece is structured in 五 (5) sections. The number 5 is a powerful symbol in Japanese culture, representing harmony, balance, and perfection. Its presence in multiple aspects of daily life and Japanese traditions makes it a fundamental element for understanding the Japanese mentality and worldview.

The 5 in the five fundamental elements of nature.

The 5 as the center, balance, and harmony, among the four cardinal points.

The five sections of the piece are therefore a symbol to go beyond the tragedy that occurred and aim to represent the tragedy, but also its overcoming, a yearning and a hope.

1 Prelude

The introductory section, a harmonically and melodically distorted version of the very famous Sakura, the traditional Japanese song that depicts the arrival of spring, the blossoming of cherry trees. In this context, the opposite occurs: the prelude to the arrival of the dreadful tragedy.

2 The Bomb

The bomb is imagined as a deep sound, breaking the sound barrier. At the detonation, as if in the distance, a series of ascending intervals follow, evoking the rise of gases and material following the explosion.

3 Fallout and Wind

A series of sounds narrates the volatile radiation suspended in the air. A sharp, at times sinister, tense sonority. The wind of destruction, combined with the poison of radiation, is represented by tremolos and rapid ascending and descending scales.

4 Cry for the Fallen

A descending, mournful melody. This is section number four. In Japan, the number 4 is associated with death. The lament for the wounded and the fallen. At the end of the session, the piano rings like a bell.

5 Cherry Blossom

A static, stunned, dismayed soundscape, consisting of a pedal point on low notes. The piano is the only instrument moving, timid and uncertain, in empty fifth intervals. The sonority evolves from the Aeolian mode to the Dorian, and finally to the Lydian. Slowly, hope emerges. The traditional song Sakura, presented in a distorted way in the initial section, slowly emerges in its poignant melodic clarity. A timid song of spring, rebirth, and hope for the future.

Note: The scoring of the parts is intentionally simple and essential to facilitate easy sight-reading.