

Israel Lai (2017)

Winter

for piano solo

Winter is a character piece that paints the composer's memory of the Swedish winter from his year abroad in Lund. The music is generally calm and crystalline, with heavy use of the piercing high notes of the piano. Instead of associating musical elements literally with snow, quivering, or other things that winter usually reminds us of, the piece focuses more on the composer's own feelings and perception of the cold, whether it is piercing or chilling, devastating or breath-taking. The middle section places a chant-like melody atop three different textures, with the intention of painting the same scenery from different perspectives; a declamatory recitative takes the music back to the unpredictability of the opening section, this time more in haste.

Winter is based on a single chord throughout the piece, the same way each snowflake is similar but also unique. The piece also explores and experiments with different possibilities of all the three pedals and their combinations, producing subtle differences in timbre to paint the scenery more vividly.

Winter was premiered on 7 November 2017 at Soochow University, Taipei, by Lee Seen-tung.

To the performer:

Accidentals in unmetred sections are valid until the next dashed barline.

Use of the damper pedal is at the performer's discretion unless *secco* is specified.

Winter

Israel Lai (Sep 2017)

Lontano

as if time were frozen

4'' 4'' 2'' 4''

sfp

① sost. ped. Ped.

$\text{♩} = 100$ approx.

mp translucently

pp *dolcissimo* *secco*

una corda tre corde

sost. ped. L.H.

pp *mp* *p* *mf* *sf*

sost. ped. Ped.

3''

ppp *p*

L.H. tr

mp *mf* *pp*

8^{va} articolato / pochiss. meno legato

② Ped.

① A recommended way of playing is by alternating the hands.
 ② Depress the pedal immediately after the note to catch the reverberation.

First system of musical notation. Treble clef with a key signature of two flats. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *pp*. A second ending bracket labeled "2^o Ped." is shown below the bass line.

Second system of musical notation. Treble clef. Features a triplet in the treble line with a *cresc.* marking. The bass line contains a triplet and a fermata.

Third system of musical notation. Treble clef. Features multiple triplet markings in both the treble and bass lines.

Fourth system of musical notation. Bass clef. Features a *fp* dynamic marking, a 4-measure phrase, and a triplet.

Fifth system of musical notation. Treble clef. Labeled "L.H." (Left Hand). Dynamics include *mf*, *pp*, and *ppp*. A *simile* marking is present. A triplet is shown in the bass line.

Sixth system of musical notation. Treble clef. Features a triplet in the bass line and a *p* dynamic marking. A dashed line labeled "8vb" indicates an octave below the bass line. The system concludes with a 16-measure rest in both staves, with a "3+3+2" measure signature above and below the rest.

3+3+2 / 16

cantabile 4

This system shows the first two staves of a piano piece. The right hand has a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand has a simple bass line with a long note in the second measure. The tempo is marked *cantabile* and the number 4 is written below the staff.

4

This system continues the piece. The right hand's melodic line is more prominent. The left hand has a steady bass line. The number 4 is written below the staff.

9 / 16

pp 4

mp 6 / 16

9 / 16

This system features a dynamic change from *pp* to *mp*. The right hand has a melodic line with a four-measure rest. The left hand has a bass line with a four-measure rest. The number 4 is written below the first staff, and 6/16 is written below the second staff.

9 / 16

p 4

mf 6 / 16

9 / 16

This system features a dynamic change from *p* to *mf*. The right hand has a melodic line with a four-measure rest. The left hand has a bass line with a four-measure rest. The number 4 is written below the first staff, and 6/16 is written below the second staff.

poco rall. *allargando*

p 4

f 6 / 16

9 / 16

This system features a dynamic change from *p* to *f*. The right hand has a melodic line with a four-measure rest. The left hand has a bass line with a four-measure rest. The tempo markings *poco rall.* and *allargando* are written above the staff. The number 4 is written below the first staff, and 6/16 is written below the second staff.

poco a poco rall.

pp dolcissimo
una corda

ppp
pp quasi pizz.
tre corde

Quasi recitativo e senza espressione ♩ = 60

pp legatissimo
una corda
sost. ped.

p
ppp tre corde

(tr)

③ Depress silently and then depress the sostenuto pedal.

mp subito espr.

(tr)

Ped.

p

6

6

6

2 1

Detailed description: This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. A trill (tr) is marked above the first few notes. Dynamics include *mp subito espr.*, *p*, and *Ped.* (pedal). A '6' is written below the bass staff in several places, likely indicating a sixteenth-note group.

pp

Ped.

6

6

6

6

8va

Detailed description: This system continues the piece. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *pp* and *Ped.* (pedal). A '6' is written below the bass staff in several places, likely indicating a sixteenth-note group. An 8va (octave) marking is present above the upper staff.

mp

p cantabile

Ped.

6

6

6

3

5

1

Detailed description: This system continues the piece. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *mp*, *p cantabile*, and *Ped.* (pedal). A '6' is written below the bass staff in several places, likely indicating a sixteenth-note group.

ppp

Detailed description: This system continues the piece. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs. Fingerings are indicated with numbers 1-3. Dynamics include *ppp*.

Meno mosso ♩ = 44

mfp

Detailed description: This system continues the piece. The upper staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The lower staff has a bass clef and contains a complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs. Dynamics include *mfp*.

pp legato
f cantando
fpp con pedale

3 2 3 1 1 2

6 2

3 4 2 1 1

6 3 5 4 2 1

3 2 1 1

3 3 1 1 4

6 1 4

3 2 4

1 5 3 4 1 1

3 2 1 2

6 1 2

3 5 1

4 3 1 1

poco allarg.
ff

4 3 1 2 5 3

5 2 2 1 5 1 5 2 5

5 3

3

8vb
Ped.

A tempo

8

3" *mp* piercingly *p* gently *secco*
secco
p rapido *pp* meno rapido R.H. *f*
Ped. *mp* *p* *f*

mp piercingly *p* gently *secco*
p rapido *pp* meno rapido R.H. *f* L.H.
Ped. *mp* *p* *f*

mp
R.H. *pp*

molto accel.

(♩ = ♩)

f 5 3

Con moto ♩. = 69

f poco staccato

pp marcato 1

First system of musical notation. The upper staff contains chords with dynamics *p* and *f*. The lower staff contains a rhythmic accompaniment.

Second system of musical notation. Includes fingering numbers (5, 4, 3, 2, 1) above the notes. Dynamics *ff* and *mf* are present. The instruction "allargando fino al tempo primo" is written above the staff.

Third system of musical notation. The instruction "Declamatory ♩ = 100 approx." is written above the staff. Dynamics *fff* and *pesante* are present. The number "1-5" is written below the staff.

Fourth system of musical notation. The instruction "8va" is written above the staff. Dynamics *pp sub.* and *legato* are present.

Fifth system of musical notation. The instruction "Ped." is written above the staff. The system shows a descending melodic line in both staves.

Sixth system of musical notation. The dynamic *sfp* is present. A bracket above the staff indicates a duration of "4''".

pp \longleftarrow *mp*

Musical notation for the first system, featuring bass clef staves with various notes and rests, including a 'Ped.' marking.

Musical notation for the second system, including treble and bass clef staves with dynamic markings like 'f', 'p', 'f', 'pp' and 'sotto voce', and 'sost. ped.' marking.

Musical notation for the third system, featuring treble and bass clef staves with the instruction 'articolato e rapido possibile' and 'secco'.

Musical notation for the fourth system, featuring bass clef staves with a 'ff' dynamic marking.

Musical notation for the fifth system, including bass clef staves with dynamic markings like 'p dolce', 'secco', 'ff', and 'pp', and a '3' marking.