

NICKY SOHN

FROG'S TALE

FOR WIND QUINTET

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(2024)

Instrumentation

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B \flat

Horn in F

Bassoon

Duration - ca. 12 minutes

Program note:

"Frog's Tale," for wind quintet, draws its inspiration from the endearing Korean folktale of Green Frog (청개구리), a mischievous green frog, and his wise mother—a narrative starring a mischievous green frog and his wise mother. This timeless story, ingrained in the cultural fabric of Korea, reminded me of my own childhood, evoking reflections on my own spirited childhood.

The tale unfolds around a frog who acts contrary to the advice of the elders. Children often bear the affectionate nickname of "Green frog" in Korea if they choose to dance to their own tune, disregarding parental guidance—a label I proudly carried during my slightly mischievous, strong-willed years. ;)

In each section, I sought to unfold a chapter of this tale through thematic ideas and textures, capturing the sentiments and nuances of the story. The process of revisiting this cherished folktale and translating it into music became a delightful journey of creativity.

I wrote this work during my residency at the Banff Centre for the Arts, where the frigid climate confined me indoors. Writing "Frog's Tale" became a joyful escape from the biting cold through the spirited energy of Greenie and his adventures.

The Kodan Quintet, known for their exceptional versatility, became the perfect canvas for this musical exploration. Their openness and trust allowed me to push the boundaries of my composition, resulting in a piece that encapsulates the essence of the Frog's Tale with no creative limitations.

for Kodan Quintet
Frog's Tale

Transposed Score

Nicky Sohn

Once upon a time, there was a little frog named Greenie
I. ♩ = 112 who lived with his mom by the pond.

The musical score is arranged for a Kodan Quintet and consists of five staves: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, French Horn in F, and Bassoon. The piece is in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩ = 112. The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a melody in the Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet in Bb, with the Bassoon providing a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *f* and *pp*. The second system (measures 5-9) is marked 'A' and features a more complex rhythmic pattern with frequent changes in meter (7/8, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4). Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*, with a *p sub.* marking. The third system (measures 10-13) is marked 'B' and features a melody in the Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet in Bb, with the Bassoon providing a rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *ff* and *p*.

14

f *p*
p *f*
p *f*
p *f*
p *f* *p*

18

C

f *p* *fp* *ff*
p *fp* *ff*
f *p* *fp* *ff*
f *p* *fp* *ff*
f *p* *fp* *ff*

22

pp *ff* *p* *f* *fff*
pp *ff* *p* *f* *fff*
pp *ff* *p* *f* *fff*
pp *ff* *p* *f* *fff*
sfz pp *ff* *sfz* *fp* *f* *fff*

27 D

Musical score for measures 27-31. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of five staves. Measure 27 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 28 features a fortissimo (*fff*) dynamic. Measure 29 returns to forte (*f*). Measure 30 has piano (*p*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. Measure 31 includes piano-piano (*pp*) and piano (*p*) dynamics. The bottom staff has dynamics *fp* < *fp* < *fp* and *p*.

32

Musical score for measures 32-34. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of five staves. Measure 32 starts with piano-forte (*fp*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. Measure 33 features forte (*f*) and sfz dynamics. Measure 34 includes piano-forte (*fp*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. The bottom staff has dynamics *fp*, *f*, and *p sub.* leading to *f*.

35 E

Musical score for measures 35-39. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of five staves. Measure 35 starts with piano (*p*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. Measure 36 features fortissimo (*fff*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. Measure 37 has forte (*f*) and piano (*p*) dynamics. Measure 38 includes fortissimo (*fff*) and forte (*f*) dynamics. Measure 39 has piano (*p*) dynamics. The bottom staff has dynamics *p*, *f*, *fff*, *f*, and *p*.