



Alice Ping Yee HO

Scintillare

Alice Ping Yee Ho (b. 1960) is renowned for her vivid orchestral imagination and her ability to transform abstract ideas into compelling sonic experiences. Her music frequently explores contrasts — light and darkness, stillness and motion, mystery and revelation — through richly layered textures and dynamic rhythmic energy. Drawing inspiration from nature, cosmology, mythology, and visual imagery, Ho creates works that immerse listeners in expansive and emotionally charged sound worlds.

Scintillare is a brilliant single-movement orchestral work inspired by the radiant glow of celestial bodies suspended within the vast darkness of the universe. The title, derived from the Latin word meaning “to sparkle” or “to shimmer,” evokes flashes of cosmic light emerging from shadow and infinite space. Throughout the work, Ho explores the dramatic tension between luminosity and obscurity, transforming the orchestra into a vast astral landscape alive with motion and energy.

From the opening moments, sharp rhythmic impulses and glittering orchestral colours propel the music forward with relentless momentum. Woodwinds and brass engage in vivid exchanges, their contrasting sonorities illuminating the musical texture like bursts of starlight cutting through darkness. Rapidly shifting gestures ripple across the orchestra, creating an atmosphere of unpredictability and wonder, while shimmering percussion and soaring melodic fragments suggest particles of light in constant motion.

As the work unfolds, Ho conjures the sensation of immense quantum energy radiating from an unseen cosmic source. Dense orchestral layers expand and contract with gravitational force, alternating between explosive brilliance and suspended moments of shadowed stillness. The music’s kinetic drive and kaleidoscopic textures evoke the mystery of deep space — a universe both awe-inspiring and unknowable.

Throughout *Scintillare*, Ho’s masterful orchestration transforms the orchestra into a living constellation of sound. Virtuoso instrumental writing and rapidly evolving timbral contrasts generate a sense of perpetual transformation, immersing the listener in a luminous and electrifying sonic journey. The result is a work of striking intensity and imagination, capturing the brilliance, mystery, and boundless energy of the cosmos.