The Lotus Flower
A Ballet based upon the Korean folk tale, "The Story of Shim Choung"
for Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Violin, Viola, Double Bass, Piano, and Percussion

Chan Ji Kim (b.1974)

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Scene 1 "The blind man and his daughter, Shim Choung"
- Early in the morning at the village
- Bird sounds begin

Bird Sounds alone for 10 sec.

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Raise stage lights slowly  1-a  - ca.50 The villagers enter the stage individually
Bird sounds fade out
* Begin with regular vibrato and increase to wide vibrato
Shim Choung enters with her blind father. She takes care of him.
Scene 2 "Three Hundred Bags of Rice"
- The blind father and a monk
- At dusk in the village

The blind father enters | ca.50 A monk enters
Freely like a siren from a distance

Fl. | Silence ca. 20" The Blind Father's Solo Dance
Cl. | Silence ca. 20" The Blind Father's Solo Dance
A. Sax. | Silence ca. 20" The Blind Father's Solo Dance
Vn. |
Vla. |
D.B. |
Perc. |
Pno. |

* Play like a monk at a Buddhist ceremony
2-b  \( \text{ca.} 80 \) The blind father and the monk begin to dance together
The monk tells the blind father if he contributes 300 bags of consecrated rice to the Buddhist temple, he will get his sight back.
(Tape continues)

- Tape Solo ca.30"
- Slow and gradual glissando
- ** Starts gliss. sul E, change to sul A
The blind father promises the monk that he will contribute the 300 bags of consecrated rice to the Buddhist temple as soon as possible.
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Tape Begins

Tape: begins with tiny bell sounds

breathe out

Wood Block
(Wood Block)

Temple Blocks (Wood Block)

highest pass, notes

sustain p
(Tape continues)

Fl.

Bass Cl.
pitch bend

A. Sx.

Vn.

Vla.

D.B.

Perc.

Tenor Drum
(Drum Strokes)

Pno.

* Starts gliss. sul E, change to sul A

Tape Stops

The monk walks out
The blind father realizes that it is impossible to collect that much money so quickly, and becomes very frustrated. (Blind father's solo dance)
Shim Choung enters. She watches her blind father's frustration. Both dance separately. The blind father doesn't know Shim Choung is dancing right next to him.
(Off Stage, a shout) Sailors shout “Bee-na-ee-da! (pray)” off stage, beginning slowly and gradually accelerate in tempo.
Off Stage: Sailors shout continuously "Bee-Na-ee-dai" (fast)

poco a poco accel.

Shim Choung shouts "Ah!"
(Lights out)
Scene 3  "The Night Prayer" for Mezzo-Soprano (recorded voice) and Alto Flute

- Around midnight
- Shim Choung’s solo dance

Shim Choung prays to God at night. She prays for her poor father, “God, give him his sight back and let him live long in comfort.” The scene begins with Shim Choung’s voice only**

I pray to God, I sold myself for three hundred bags of rice, and tomorrow is the day when I have to leave with the sailors.
I pray to God, give my poor father his sight and let him live long in comfort.
I pray to God, pray with my folded hands, pray, pray, and pray.

\* - ca. 50
sorrowful
with an emotional appeal

Mezzo-Soprano (recorded voice)

\* Ohbuh  Uh-huh  -  uhbuh  uhbuh  uh-huh

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\* The lyrics, by Chan Ji Kim, are based on traditional Korean prayers when Koreans pray to their ancestors; the prayers are delivered with folded hands.
The words, "Uh-huh, Uh-hee, Uh-huh-ya. Uh-hee-ya" are strongly emotional, onomatopoetic words found in Korean prayers.

** The text by Chan Ji Kim
**Alto Flute:** Imitate, as close as possible, the airy sound of the Korean Bamboo Flute, the Dae-Kum.

**Key slide pitch bend.**
Scene 4 "The Sacrificial Rite"
- Shim Choung sold for rice
- An afterglow of the red sunset
- Around the seaside cliff at the village

Shim Choung talks to the sailors who want to buy a girl to sacrifice for safe passage on the ocean.
4-a • ca.50 Shim Choung walks toward the edge of a cliff. with emotion
The Lotus Flower • Kim

The sacrificial rite begins.

with vitality

Tom-toms (Hard Yarn)

Finger Cymbal

inside piano

Play with hard felt mallet on the lowest strings possible.
Shin Choung prays for the last time before she dies.
(Shin Choung's solo dance)
Shim Choung falls off the cliff.
She shouts "Father" (Lights out)
Scene 5: "Under the Sea, the Dragon Palace"

- Surreal world
- Use background images (Under the sea) throughout the scene.
- The Dragon King, Sea Ladies, and Shim Choung

Images of Shim Choung's prerecorded dance under the sea

Silence
c.a. 20"
No Dancers
on the Stage
Shim Choung dances her solo dance accompanied by prerecorded still images of her dance.
The combination of the live, on stage dance with the recorded dance represents the separation of her body and soul.
Shim Choung wonders where she is.

5-a = ca.108
Tape Begins

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*Suspended Cymbal

(hands)

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*play with singing
(Tape continues)
Tape Solo 1. The Dragon King and the Sea Ladies enter (vibraphone sounds and breath sounds) ca. 1 min.
2. The Dragon King orders Shim Choung back to the real world (begins with short high bell sounds) ca. 2 min.
3. The Dragon King and Sea Ladies put Shim Choung into a giant lotus flower (begins with tiny bell sounds) ca. 1'20".
4. The Dragon King and Sea Ladies exit the stage (sea waves sound effect with low mumbling sounds begin) ca. 10 sec.
5. The giant lotus flower stands alone in the middle of the stage (only the sea waves sound effect for 10 sec, then lights out).
Scene 6 "The Lotus Flower Opened. Blind Eyes See!"
The Lotus Flower • Kim

- Early in the morning at the village
- The villagers find a lotus blossom
- Bird sounds begin

Raise stage lights slowly \( \text{ca.50} \)  The villagers enter the stage individually

Bird sounds fade out

* Slow and gradual glissando
* Begin with regular vibrato, increase to wide vibrato.
The blind father enters.
He touches the giant lotus flower.
(The blind father’s solo dance)
* Play the notes as fast as possible for the duration indicated.
Continue the figuration ad lib. (chromatic)
The blind father enters. He touches the giant lotus flower.
(The blind father's solo dance)
The giant lotus flower opens and Shim Choung appears from within the flower.
(Shim Choung's solo dance)
6-g  ca.144  All the villagers dance together.
The blind father starts to scream, 
"I want to see her!"
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The blind father's last scream, "I want to see her!"

* Play the notes as fast as possible for the duration indicated. Continue the figuration ad lib. (chromatic)
The blind father's eyes open.

Finally, Shim Choung's father can see his daughter.

Shim Choung and her father's dance.

accel.

Silence
c.a.10"

sul pont.

ppp

pp

p

Tom-toms
(Wood Stick)

Suspended Cymbal
(Soft yarn)

Silence
c.a.10"