



Choral Symphony *Earth•Home* by Wang Ning

Wang Ning, *Symphony No. 9, Op.55, Earth•Home*

for orchestra, choir, and solo vocalists

Wang Ning's Symphony No. 9, titled *Earth•Home*, is a choral symphony – a musical composition for orchestra, choir, and solo vocalists. It is the world's first environmentally themed symphony, composed for cantors, chorus, and symphony orchestra.

Environmental issues are related to the destiny and future survival of mankind. Today's ecosystem is deteriorating day by day, and the damage caused to the environment by human greed will cause an existential crisis for all species.

How do we care for and protect the Earth, our only home? It is time we face this question seriously and take action. The reason is very simple, if there are no “green mountains and green waters,” what possible meaning could “gold and silver mountains” have for us? *Although economic development is a priority, the environment cannot be sacrificed solely for the sake of growth.* I hope that through this musical work we will remind mankind – from the government to all people – that we must care for the environment, we must protect the environment, and we must cherish the Earth's resources because *it is the only home that we share.* Protecting our homeland needs to start with each one of us.

The symphony *Earth•Home* is a masterpiece that uses the language of music to raise awareness and warn us about the deterioration of the ecological environment, and its effect on human survival. This symphony expresses deep concern for the future of the earth and the destiny of mankind, from the origin of life on Earth to the present day.

The work starts from the beginning of the Earth's grand opening and the formation of its ecosystem, to the reproduction of all things on the Earth and the picturesque homeland, to the greed and madness of human beings plundering the Earth's resources and destroying its ecosystem; at the end of the work, a very special method of performance art expression is used to remind mankind – it's time for each of us to reflect and wake up to the crisis we are facing!

Many unique performative techniques are used in *Earth•Home* to connote real-world ideas. For example, domestic garbage and waste are used as musical instruments creating sound effects with distinctive timbres that provoke us to reflect.

Choral Symphony *Earth•Home* **in nine movements**

(The first eight movements are performed continuously without interruption, approximate duration two hours)

Movement I – "Origin"

The Earth is born, the primordial world (hongmeng, 鸿蒙) begins to bloom, and the Earth's ecosystem is formed.

Movement II – "Life"

The reproduction of life and living things.

Movement III – "Homeland"

Blue sky and white clouds, rivers and lakes, birds and animals, green trees and flowers cover the earth. There are thousands of acres of fertile land, abundant water and grass, cattle and sheep are everywhere, and the land is full of vitality. Mother Earth nurtures us so that we can thrive.

Movement IV – "Wrath"

The destruction and devastation caused by human beings to the Earth and all of its species, including to human beings themselves! Human greed, extortion, plunder, and destruction pose a serious threat to everything on the Earth. Fields are desolate, trees are cut down, raging winds have swept everything away. Land is covered with yellow sand, lakes are dry, no grass is growing – our homeland is completely desolate. The rivers change color, the sky is full of smog, and there is nowhere to hide. The sky has collapsed, bombs have flown everywhere, and homes are devastated with ruins upon ruins. No living thing is spared; evil extends to all life. Humanity is destroyed by its own greed.

Movement V – "The Present World"

The ecosystem has been severely damaged, and the Earth is devastated. Once upon a time, the rivers were rippling with blue waves nurturing the growth of all things, and the sun and rain filled the Earth with hope. How come everything has drifted away in the wind? Why? Our beautiful home – please tell me why? Why? Why? Why have you changed!

Movement VI – "Awakening the World"

Ah! Mother Earth, what's wrong with you? Your body is bruised and devastated. Now you are thin and haggard due to hunger, scarred, and dying.

Movement VII – "The End of the World"

Mother Earth, I am your child. I need your nourishment and cannot live without your care. Without you, I don't know where my future will be. I will have to leave my home and find another place where I could survive.

Movement VIII – Appendix: "Rebirth"

A Song for Mankind. The awakening of mankind at the cost of destruction. Stop being endlessly greedy! Only when all things are prosperous can you have a future! Humanity has endured an ecological disaster. Our homes are in ruins. We have destroyed everything. Wake up, stop being greedy, **love** everything, and protect your home.

Movement IX – Chorus with the audience: "Protect Our Home"

The Earth is our only home. We are homeless without you. Protecting our environment is to protect ourselves.