

Marking Infinity for Orchestra (2012)

This piece is inspired by the Korean artist Lee Ufan and is particularly focused on his exhibition entitled "*Marking Infinity*." This exhibition explores the emptiness within a space and gives the impression of unpremeditated simplicity creating an atmosphere of what he calls "the art of emptiness." As a result, he creates abstract compositions that are both fascinating and invokes the onlooker into profound thought.

In my piece I adopted a traditional Korean song "*Arirang*;" the melody is broken down and made unrecognizable. There is a playful back and forth sway between getting closer and flowing away from the original tune. But, gradually the fragments are pieced back together.

Encountering Lee's work makes me wonder what is material and immaterial and furthermore, what is shadow and light. It challenges and invites me into an alternative approach to how I see, experience and feel things. This piece "*Marking Infinity*" is my own interpretation of his work in dealing with space and infinity. In his paintings, he starts with a single canvas and uses one color to create a monochromatic piece. It is simple, meticulous, thought provoking, philosophical, and beautiful; encompasses the essence of time, and is just plain amazing. It is just one canvas and one color making it confined, but at the same time it is everything – it is infinity. Similar to his work, I limit my materials and use variation techniques to try and create my own sense of infinity. It is my attempt to create a piece with a simple melody, which I break up while meticulously and playfully piecing it back together. This piece is my way of incorporating Lee Ufan's philosophy and expressing it as a musical composition.