

# OCEANO NOX

Orchestral Project by Composer Kwangho Cho



## *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*

Katsushika Hokusai  
1831  
Reversed color

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# 1.

## The Project

'**OCEANO NOX**' is my orchestral music project. I would like to present my first orchestral piece through this project. This piece was firstly inspired by Victor Hugo's poem of the same title '**OCEANO NOX**' about 10 years ago and I fell deeply into Hugo's unique emotions.

Someday I have reached the West Sea in Korea. It was dark and I sat in front of the sea for a long time. And at that time, I thought of Hugo's poem. I wanted to capture the sound of the waves, the wind, the moonlight, the lighthouse, and the mood of that time through music.

I am a composer who is greatly influenced by impressionism. **Claude Debussy** who was more spontaneous and casual in his composition , especially '**La mer**' the power of his sophisticated passion fascinated me. **Maurice Ravel** was more attentive to form and craftsmanship. This aspect is evident in the **Daphnis et Chloe**. And **Toru Takemitsu**, built his unique world with impressionistic harmony and beauty of space. In his piece '**A flock into the pentagonal garden**', The composer explained that the work arose from a dream and nature.

*Expert from A Conversation with Bruce Duffie :*

*"As a composer, I am always thinking about relation between nature and music, nature and arts, and my music is very much influenced from nature."*

And also I was greatly influenced by Spectralism Composer such as Giacinto Scelsi, Tristan Murail, and Gerald Grisey. Since I am a sound-sensitive composer, I want to make the most delicate sound as much as I can imagine using various contemporary techniques and Spectralism concepts. Above all, however, harmony and clear structure will lead the music.

I think this work will be the best overall expression of my most important parts, the impressionism aspect. It will be the first work to show my acoustic and instinct that I have been eager to compose since I started music. So I have to choose the orchestral work at this stage.

So, although you can't see it in my music so far, the ultimate goal is to put romance, ideals, and spirituality into music through the exploration of sound, and this piece will be the beginning of that goal.

This piece will be about 25 minutes long, And It will be a large-scale orchestra with fourfold woodwinds.

## Excerpt from 'OCEANO NOX'

...

Bientôt des yeux de tous votre ombre est disparue.  
L'un n'a-t-il pas sa barque et l'autre sa charrue ?  
Seules, durant ces nuits où l'orage est vainqueur,  
Vos veuves aux fronts blancs, lasses de vous attendre,  
Parlent encor de vous en remuant la cendre  
De leur foyer et de leur coeur !

Et quand la tombe enfin a fermé leur paupière,  
Rien ne sait plus vos noms, pas même une humble pierre  
Dans l'étroit cimetière où l'écho nous répond,  
Pas même un saule vert qui s'effeuille à l'automne,  
Pas même la chanson naïve et monotone  
Que chante un mendiant à l'angle d'un vieux pont !

Où sont-ils, les marins sombrés dans les nuits noires ?  
O flots, que vous savez de lugubres histoires !  
Flots profonds redoutés des mères à genoux !  
Vous vous les racontez en montant les marées,  
Et c'est ce qui vous fait ces voix désespérées  
Que vous avez le soir quand vous venez vers nous!

## English Translation

...

Soon your shadow will disappear from everyone's eyes  
Does one not have his bark and the other his plough?  
Alone, during these nights where the storm is victorious,  
Your white-haired widows, tired of waiting for you,  
still talk about you while stirring the ashes  
of their hearth and their heart!

And when the grave finally closes their eyes,  
Nothing will know your names anymore, not even a humble rock  
In the narrow cemetery where the echo answers us,  
Not even a green willow losing its leaves in autumn,  
Not even the naive and monotonous song  
that a beggar sings at the corner of an old bridge!

Where are they, the sailors sunk into the black nights?  
Oh waves, you sure know some bleak stories!  
Deep waves dreaded by mothers on their knees!  
You keep repeating them as the tide rises,  
And that is what gives you those desperate voices  
that you have when you come toward us in the evening

# 2.

## Plan

I need a year to complete this Orchestral piece. Once the commission or plan is in place, I will take the time to compose this music.

So I put together a draft of the program with the two composers who have had the greatest influence on me (Claude Debussy and Toru Takemitsu) and attach it below.

# Program (Draft)

La mer – Claude Debussy (b 1862)

I. De l'aube à midi sur la mer

II. Jeux de vagues

III. Dialogue du vent et de la mer

Ca. 25 ' 00"

A Flock Descends into the Pentagonal Garden – Toru Takemitsu (b 1930)

Ca. 12' 00"

- Intermission -

Garden of Silence II – Kwangho Cho (b 1987)

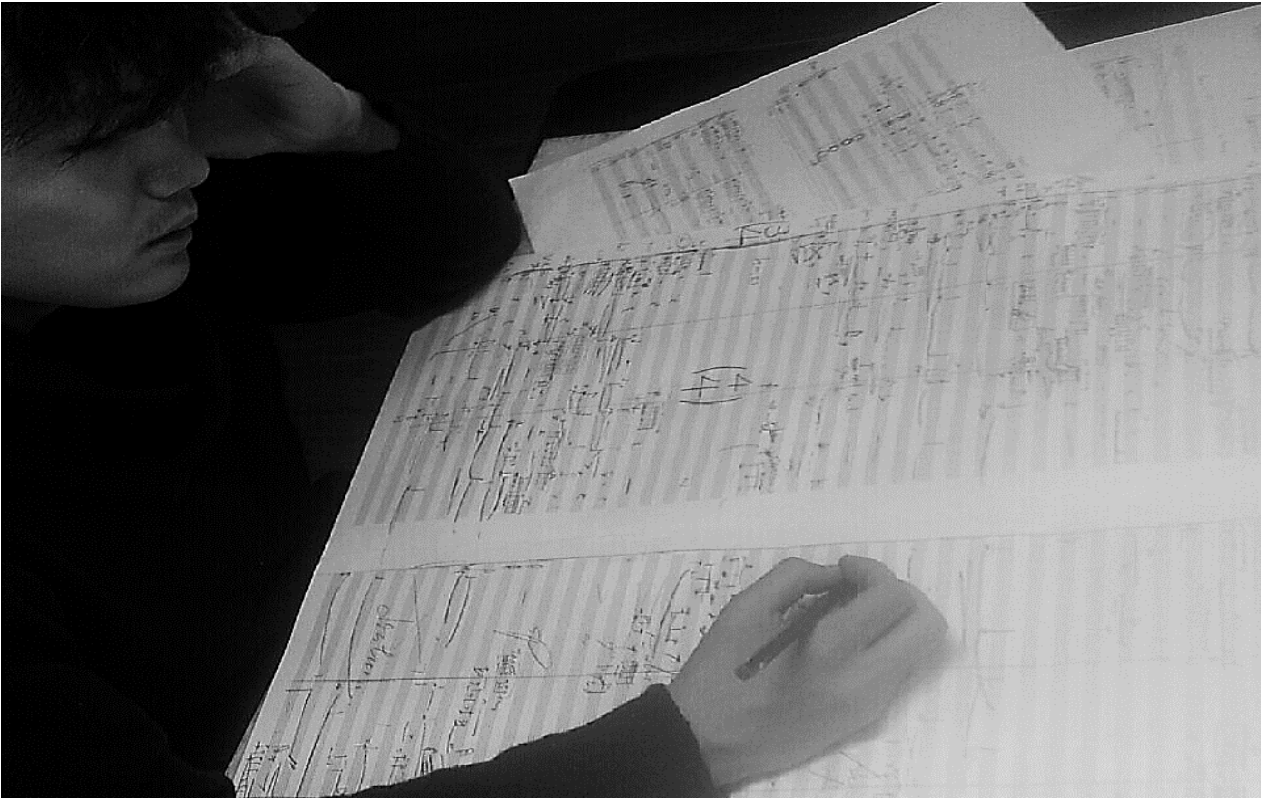
Ca. 15 ' 00"

Oceano Nox – Kwangho Cho (b 1987)

Ca. 25 ' 00"

# 3.

## Biography



Born in 1987 in Pyeong Taek, Korea, Kwang Ho Cho started violin studies since 1992. Thanks to his father, a great lover of music, he grew up listening to classical, jazz, pop, world music and so on. In 1994, He composed his first opus for violin and piano "Theme and Variation in D minor".

In June 2000, he won 3rd Prize in *Gyeonggi Metropolitan Office of Education Violin Competition*. 1998~2005, he performed in numerous concerts as a violinist in YMCA, Pun-dang, and Nowon Youth Orchestra. In 2007, he entered the College of Music in **Yonsei University**. He quit school where he majored in composition and psychology minored in French literature. Currently Kwangho Cho is a Master student at the **Royal College of Music in London**, studying composition for screen with Dimitri Scarlato, Enrica Sciandrone and Kate Simko. he is a John Barry Scholar for film music, supported by Mrs Barry.



In 2008, he founded "SUM", a group of composers that has given a number of concerts since its foundation. In 2009, he followed a masterclass with Thierry Escaich. In 2011, he won the 1st Prize in **George Enescu International Competition for chamber music composition**. In 2012, his works were world premiered at one of Seoul Culture Festival's concerts. In 2013, he won the **Rein Marie Jose Prize (1st prize in 68th Geneva competition)**. and 2015, he awarded 'the audience prize' in **2015 Asian Composers Showcase**. and he awarded 'honorable mention award' in 2017 **Frederic Mompou composition award**, 'Finalists' in 2020 **Berlin Film music competition** and **2016 Oticons Faculty International Film music Competition**.

He conducted in various occasions including the "House Concert by Chang-soo Park", Seoul Creation music festival. He also performed as a pianist Seoul Culture Night, Fringe Festival, etc. And He has also served as a head of jury of International competition including **1st Ise-Shima International Popular Music Composition Competition (2022)**

He composed pop music while working for Japan's popular music company, performed jazz pieces in Korean concerts, and took part in many K-POP music albums and concerts. and he composed pieces for animations, worked as a music director for musical productions. He has hence attempted working with various kinds of music.

He worked as a music director and a scoring composer for several feature-length films and TV series.

He is mainly engaged in film and concert music.

# 4.

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