

# MO SUO'S BURIAL CEREMONY (2006)

## FOR WOODWIND QUINTET

Woodwind quintet Mo Suo's Burial Ceremony was composed in 2006, commissioned by Aspen Music Festival's composition program. Inspired by the unique funeral customs in Mo Suo, a Chinese southwest minority, this wood quintet depicts Lama's reciting scriptures to release souls from purgatory, Daba monks' dancing to expel ghosts, as well as Lama's cremating corpse which are tied up like a fetus into a wooden cage for reincarnation. I tried to create various colors and dramatic tension and express the touching emotions. In this work, winds are considered human beings' voices that contain joy, sadness, anger, and fear etc. They cry, they laugh, they talk and they dance. In addition, this work is based on three pitches---B, C, and F, initials of Burial, Ceremony and Funeral. The first and last note both use C, which symbolize a life cycle.

This work won International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition 2011, American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) Morton Gould Young Composers Award in 2007; In 2008, Quintette K won 2nd Prize in 5th Lyon International Chamber Music Competition, in which they played my wind quintet as one of the five pieces they played in the competition.

This work received numerous performances in U.S., France, Germany, Norway and China since its born in summer 2006. It is also highly acclaimed by the performers and audience. The July 2007's performance at Aspen Music Festival are by five principals from Philadelphia, Detroit, St. Louis, Montreal and Bergen Orchestras.

1. Bergen Woodwind Quintet, Norway, May 2012
2. Quintet of the Americas, New York, May 2012
3. Quintet of the Americas, New York, March 2012
4. Quintette K, France, March 2012
5. Quintet of the Americas, New York, February 2012
6. Quintette K, France, November 2010
7. Quintette K, France, October 2010
8. Bergen Woodwind Quintet, Shanghai, China ,October 2010
9. Bergen Woodwind Quintet, Tianjin, China, October 2010
10. Bergen Woodwind Quintet, Beijing, China, October 2010
11. Con fuoco Quintett, University of Music Karlsruhe, Germany, June 2010
12. UMKC Woodwind Quintet, Kansas City, November 2009
13. Quintette K, France, September 11, 2009
14. Quintette K, France, September 19, 2009
15. Quintette K, France, March 2009
16. Quintette K, Germany, March 2009
17. Quintet of the Americas, New York, June 2008
18. Quintette K, France, April 2008
19. East Winds Quintet, PA, February 2008

20. Quintet of the Americas, New York, January 2008
21. Quintette Cassiopee, Lyon, France, October 2007
22. Bergen Woodwind Quintet, Oslo, Norway, October 2007
23. Conundrum Woodwind Quintet, Aspen Music Festival, Aspen in CO, July 2007
24. Quintette Cassiopee, Lyon, France, May 2007
25. Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Principal Woodwind Quintet, Shang Hai, China, November 2006
26. Bergen Woodwind Quintet, University of Minnesota, October 2006
27. Aspen Music Festival, Aspen in CO, August 2006, premiere of Woodwind Quintet Mo Suo's Burial Ceremony.