Piano Concerto

in C minor (1912)

by

Helen Hagan

Orchestrated by Soomin Kim
Women's Philharmonic Advocacy – www.wophil.org

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This version was premiered by Samantha Ege and the Yale Philharmonia

in October 2022 in New Haven, CT.

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incorporated in Santa Rosa, CA, USA. Our EIN is 83-4274435.

WPA was founded in 2008 to work for equity for women composers and

celebrate the legacy of The Women's Philharmonic (1980-2004)

www.wophil.org -- info@wophil.org

Preface

To the *Piano Concerto in C minor (1912)*
of Helen Hagan

One of the earliest known piano concertos by an African American woman is Helen Eugenia Hagan's 1912 Piano Concerto in C minor, a one movement work. Hagan, the first Black woman to graduate from the Yale School of Music, performed her concerto with both the student orchestra at Yale and the New Haven Symphony.

I recorded the two-piano version of her concerto on my 2022 *Black Renaissance Woman* album. Then, on October 20, 2022, I performed Hagan's concerto at Yale and in the same concert hall—Woolsey Hall—where Hagan, herself, played the concerto 110 years before. Yale alumna Soomin Kim reimagined the yet-to-be-found orchestration, and I stepped into Hagan's shoes, joining conductor Peter Oundjian and the Yale Philharmonia as the soloist for this historic concert. A few years after, I performed Kim's reconstruction with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and conductor Perry So on June 21, 2024.

Kim's orchestration of Hagan's Piano Concerto allows modern-day audiences to hear historical women's contributions in a new light.

– Dr. Samantha Ege FRCM

Soomin Kim is Visiting Assistant Professor of Composition at Oberlin Conservatory of Music. She holds a Master of Music and Master of Musical Arts in composition from the Yale School of Music, and in 2022 she was invited to orchestrate the surviving two-piano score of Helen Hagan's Piano Concerto of 1912, for the Yale Philharmonia performance. "From the reduced piano score I had to fulfill the orchestral imagination just based on what she has written, to honor her only surviving manuscript," said Kim before the October 2022 premiere of the newly orchestrated work.

Soomin's compositions have garnered recognition, including three Morton Gould Young Composer Awards from the ASCAP Foundation (2019, 2020, and 2022). In 2025 she was selected to attend the inaugural Memphis Composer Institute, where her work was performed by the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. Her music has been presented internationally, with performances in South Korea, Japan, Australia, Italy, and across the United States.
https://soominkim.net/

Instrumentation

2 Flutes (2nd doubling Piccolo)
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in Bb (2nd doubling Bass Clarinet)
2 Bassoons

2 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C

Timpani

Solo Piano

Strings

Duration ca. 18 minutes

Transposed Score

PIANO CONCERTO IN C MINOR

written by Helen Hagan
orchestrated by Soomin Kim

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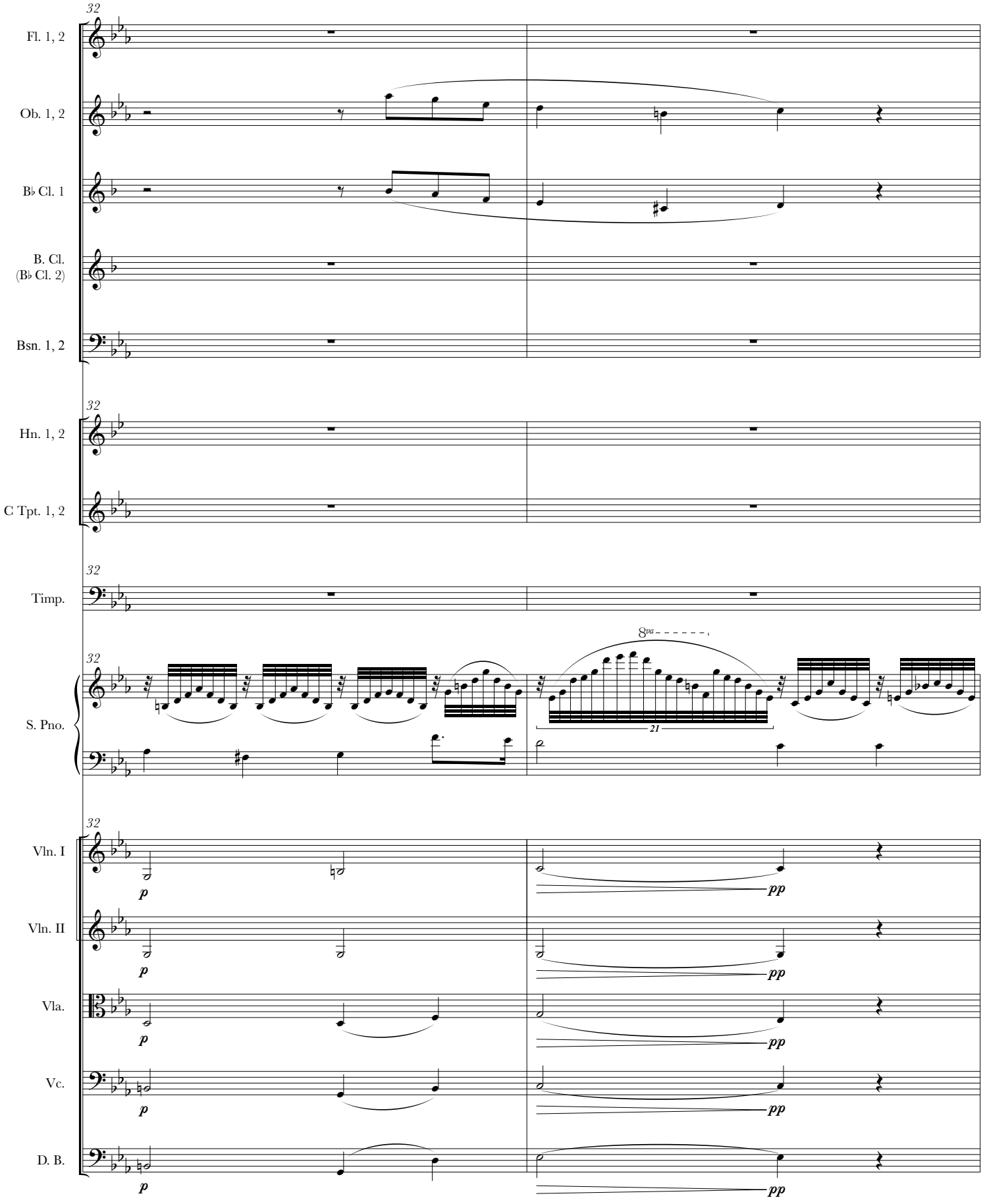
Picc. (Fl. 2)
Fl. 1
Ob. 1, 2
B♭ Cl. 1, 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hn. 1, 2
C Tpt. 1, 2
Timp.
S. Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
6
a 2
solo
tutti
ff
mf
f
p

accel.
A Faster ♩ = ca. 96–100
11
Picc. (Fl. 2)
Fl. 1
Ob. 1, 2
B♭ Cl. 1, 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hn. 1, 2
C Tpt. 1, 2
Timp.
S. Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
a 2
Cup mute IN
cresc.
pizz.
mf
ff
mp
p
fp
f
fff
sff
8va

16
(8va)
S. Pno.
19
a 2
B♭ Cl. 1, 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hn. 1, 2
Timp.
S. Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
arco
mp
f
fp
p
ff
8va

(8va)
23
S. Pno.
p
17
26
a 2
solo
B♭ Cl. 1, 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hn. 1, 2
Timp.
S. Pno.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
mf
mp
pp
f
ff
8va

B
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
solo
p
B♭ Cl. 1
solo
p
to B. Cl.
B♭ Cl. 2
Bsn. 1, 2
Hn. 1, 2
C Tpt. 1, 2
Timp.
S. Pno.
8va
17
B
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
p
pp


32
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
B♭ Cl. 1
B. Cl.
(B♭ Cl. 2)
Bsn. 1, 2
32
Hn. 1, 2
C Tpt. 1, 2
32
Timp.
32
8va
21
S. Pno.
32
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D. B.
p
pp