

Dieter Mack 2009

T e r a s i

for Orchestra

**- Terasi -
2009**

Dieter Mack

Dedicated to Inge, Jörg and Jürgen

"**Terasi**" is the Indonesian term for a very unique spice, which is a fermented crab paste. Its smell in natural and in fried form is very uncomfortable if not thoroughly disgusting. Yet, as a balanced ingredient in special spicy dishes it converts to an essential element where its original character has been transformed into a new delicious taste, so typical for Indonesia and especially Bali.

I chose that term quite spontaneously after I received the commission to write that piece as part of the opening concert in 2010 of the annual Brahms-Festival of the University of Music in Lübeck. I chose that term because all of a sudden I had the idea of a music, partly consisting of very "unpleasant" elements that in a peculiar context become an essential and convenient part of the whole – similar to the above mentioned spice and its usage.

The whole atmosphere of the composition is a dark and murky one. The image of something quite viscously floating, accompanied by various "comments" or accidental occurrences became the basic vision of the music. Therefore I got back to a cantus firmus-like idea which in this case is more represented by a certain rhythmic line and various "dark" instrumentations, first by a doublebass with contrabassoon, then by doublebass, bassflute and clarinet and later by mainly the violoncellos. These three phases are put into a certain framework becoming the formal pillars of the music.

Instrumentation:

Piccolo
 1st Flute
 2nd Flute (also Piccolo)
 3^d Flute (also Bassflute)
 1st Oboe
 2nd Oboe (also Englishhorn)
 3^d Oboe (also Englishhorn)
 1st Clarinet in A and Bb (also Eb-Clarinet)
 2nd Clarinet in Bb (also Bassclarinet in Bb)
 Bassclarinet in Bb
 Altosax (also Tenorsax)
 Tenorsax
 1st Bassoon
 2nd Bassoon
 Contrabassoon (also 3^d Bassoon)
 4 French Horns

3 Trumpets in Bb
 2 Trombones
 1 Basstrombone
 Basstuba
 Timpani
 3 Percussionists
 Piano
 1st violin (10-14)
 2nd violin (10-14)
 Viola (8 - 10)
 Violoncello (9!)
 Doublebass (6!)

Percussion Instruments:

Percussion I:

Xylophone, 1 octave Crotales (cymbales antiques), 5 Tomtoms (very high to very low, the highest should almost sound like a Bongo; I prefer those of "Vize Native Drums" in Oberried), 1 Nicophone (a metal instrument with eight sounds - notated with crosses - developed by Domenico Melchiorre (d.melchiorre@hotmail.de))

Percussion II:

1 Vibraphone, 1 octave Crotales, 5 Woodblocks (middle to very low), 3 Cymbals (high, middle, low)

Percussion III:

1 Gran Cassa, 1 big Tamtam, a set of Thai Gongs: E^b and from A to e^{b1} , a Balinese Gong on A_1 (available from the composer)

Notation

The notation shows four staves of music. The first staff, labeled 'Tom Toms', contains a sequence of notes. The second staff, labeled 'Nicophon', contains a sequence of crosses. The third staff, labeled 'Cymbals', contains a sequence of notes. The fourth staff, labeled 'Woodblocks', contains a sequence of notes. Vertical dashed lines separate the staves into four distinct sections.

Other Instructions

- The score is written in C (standard octave transpositions)
- Tempos may be adjusted slightly, but if a tempo has been set for a defined section (see always double bar lines), that tempo should not change, except if indicated otherwise in the score itself.
- Trumpets and trombones need a "straight mute" (s.m.) and a "harmon mute" (h.m.). French Horns and Tuba use their normal one.

- Accidentals are only valuable for the immediate following note.
- Crossed notes indicate a noisy sound with much air and less pitch
- An accent in the note indicates a slap-note
- An arrow note head downwards indicates a pitchless air sound with a long tube (normally used with flatter tongue)
- Dampers for brass instruments: s.m. = straight mute; h.m. = harmon mute
- There are different types of vibrato that should taken care of precisely:
 - o *senza vibrato*: no vibrato at all
 - o *molto vibrato* (m.v.): strong and fast vibrato up to a quarter-tone
 - o *molto vibrato lentamente*: same as before but with slow and irregular period.