#### A LITTLE TRAMP WALKING IN THE ASSEMBLY LINE FROM THE MOVIE, MODERN TIMES FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (2015)

BY

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# A Little Tramp Walking in the Assembly Line

from the movie, Modern Times

for Chamber orchestra (2015)



Jihyun Kim (b.1989)

### **Program Note**

The movie, *Modern Times* (1936), is a comedy film written and directed by Charlie Chaplin. The "Little Tramp" character struggles to survive in the modern, industrialized world. While the satire is conveyed underneath humor, the story eventually ends with a hopeful message. After watching the movie, I was left with several impressions: the rotating motion of the conveyor belt; the regular-pulsed machinery sound from the factory; the clown-like walking gesture of the character "Tramp"; and black-and-white scenes without sound. Also, there were other inspirations I had from the movie, such as the old big-band version of the song "Caravan" by Duke Ellington (although it was never quoted in the actual movie), and the image of a person looking into the Kinetoscope (an earlier version of a movie projector, which can only be used by one person at a time).

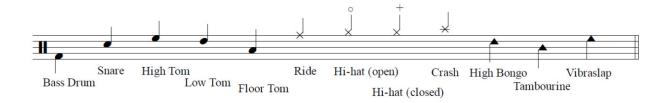
Personally, my impression of *Modern Times* was as a collection of short stories put together in sequence, instead of a single plot with logical flow. From that idea, I thought of ways to put the non-related scenes together into a single musical entity. Hence, the piece is more similar to a panorama with equally important musical scenes, without a climactic point or introduction/conclusion.

As the musical ideas shift from one to another, listeners will sometimes notice an abrupt change of scenes; while at other times, scenes will naturally merge. In the movie, the character "Tramp" functioned as a medium to put together different stories into single plot. In my work, a consistent pulse in background, an oscillation of notes, and limited pitch material centered on C with F-sharp, G and B-flat, act as apparatuses to bind the piece into a single whole.

\*The work, *Caravan* by Duke Ellington, is quoted in music.

#### **Performance Note**

• Drum set / other percussions



• All grace notes happen BEFORE the beat

# Instrumentation

Flute (doubling Piccolo)
Oboe
Clarinet in B-flat (doubling Bass Clarinet)
Bassoon

Horn in F Trumpet in C Trombone

Percussion (one player) (Drum set, High bongo, Tambourine, Vibraslap) Piano

> Violin I Violin II Viola Cello Double Bass

Duration: approximately 7 minutes

This score is notated in C

# A Little Tramp Walking in the Assembly Line

## from the movie *Modern Times*





























































