

*In history...*

*In memory...*

*(For violin and orchestra)*

Composer: Ching-Shan Chang

(2016)

*Dedicated to those who have lost their loved ones in war*

## *Script:*

**Characters:** Soo-Chung Lee (A Korean soldier, 50 years old), David Wilson (An American soldier)

**Locations:** 1. A grave yard in memory of all the soldiers who dedicated themselves for the peace of the world  
2. An abandoned village that will be destroyed in the war  
3. The battlefield where the war bursts out

**Time:** 1980 (30 years after the war)

The scene starts with vast green grassland on the top of a mountain, with a few trees scattered in the back. Warm winds blow gently and clouds wander in the sky. Soldier Lee in a full military uniform walks up the hill slowly with heavy steps, towards the screen from far away. His head is down and he stops in the middle of the screen (*Measure 11*). The camera zooms in to him and we can clearly see that both time and violence have left wrinkles and scars on his face. He is standing in front of his friend's grave. The name on the tombstone is covered by vines, and it is almost completely worn out by the wind. He stares at the name, expressionless.

[Fade in] (*Measure 36*) The camera switches to his memory of the war as a slideshow: he is rushing nervously on a narrow street at an abandoned village with a seriously injured soldier on his back. The scene has no background natural sound but the sound of his heavy breath and wind swiping, passing his face. There is no one around and the doors of the houses are swinging in wind, and the windows are all shattered. In order to find a safe place to hide his friend, David, he runs and runs.

[Fade in] (*Measure 41*) The camera switches back to the present where soldier Lee is gently sitting beside the tomb of his friend. He bursts into tears and becomes emotional, the hand that is gripping the bouquet harder and harder starts to tremble. His head is down and his tears are washing over the flowers. After a while, he looks up, short of breath (*measure 46~49*).

(*Measure 51*) [Fade in] (*Continuing from the previous flashback on his memory*) The camera switches back to his memory running on the street in a vacant village. Even though anxiety, melancholy, uneasiness and fear strike him one after one, he still looks around, hoping to find a safe place as he's running. Far in the distance, he finally sees an abandoned hospital that is located farther away from the middle of the village (*Measure 63, the music slows down as he becomes less worried and anxious*). Soldier Lee lays David down on a messy bed and looks at him. (*Measure 65*) He pacifies David and says "Don't worry buddy, you will be safe here. And once the war is over, I'll come take you home." David's face is covered with blood and his eyes are closed. Lee glares at his face and can't help but cry. He dashes out of the door before he becomes too emotional.

(*Measure 71*) [Direct cut] The scene cuts to the battlefield directly as he runs out of the hospital. The camera switches to a sea of flames in the background. The dirty air starts to block Lee's view as the bombs explode around him. The sound of guns and canons ring violently behind him but he's still fearlessly determined to kill every enemy. [Slow motion] He shoots enemy soldiers and the scene features more violent moments. He runs towards the village because he sees all the bombers and tanks are going that way. When he finally reaches the village, half of it has become ashes. However, he doesn't stop running until he sees the hospital that is being bombarded in front of him (about 10 meters away) (*Measure 86*).

(*Measure 88*) [Fade in] The camera switches to the present time and overlaps soldier Lee's standing and looking up posture from the last moment in the memory and the one standing by the grave. He slowly turns his head down and looks at the old grave. He starts sobbing quietly because his mind is in chaos after living these memories. 30 years has gone by but he hasn't had a chance to visit his old friend who's been sleeping. Regardless of feelings of guilt that he didn't keep the promise to take David home by himself, he decides to keep all those memories deep in the bottom of his heart forever, knowing his life needs to go on. He turns away from the screen and departs. Wind blowing, grass swinging, the soldier disappears.

-Written by Ching-Shan Chang

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# *Instrumentation*

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Flute

Oboe

English horn

Clarinet 1&2

Bassoon 1&2

Horn 1, 2 & 3

Trumpet

Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Suspended cymbal

Glockenspiel

Harp

Piano

Violin solo

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass





