

Nic Gotham

Strategy

(2010)

for female voices SSA,
alto saxophone (at concert pitch in score), piano, and contrabass

Duration: 19 minutes

The text of *Strategy* is excerpted from
John Minford's translation of *The Art of War* (ca. 500 B.C.)
by Chinese general and scholar Sun Tzu,
and is used by permission of John Minford.

Strategy

$\text{♩} = 72$

Soprano 1
...a grave af-fair of state, a place of life and death, a road to sur-vi-val and ex-tinc-tion, a

Soprano 2
...a grave af-fair of state, a place of life and death, a road to sur-vi-val and ex-tinc-tion, a

Alto
...a grave af-fair of state, a place of life and death, a road to sur-vi-val and ex-tinc-tion, a

Alto Saxophone

Piano

Contrabass
pizz. arco
mf

6 **A**

S. 1
mat ter to be pon-der'd care - ful - ly.

S. 2
mat ter to be pon-der'd care - ful - ly. There are Five Fun - da

A.
mat ter to be pon-der'd care - ful - ly.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

B

10 $\text{♩} = 63$

S. 1 The Way,

S. 2 men - tals: The Way, to be of one mind, to live or die but ne-ver to wa-ver.

A. The Way,

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb. *p* pizz.

16

S. 1 Hea-ven is Yin and Yang, cold and hot, the cy-cle of sea sons. Earth is height and depth,

S. 2 Hea-ven Earth

A. Hea-ven Earth

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb. arco pizz. arco

23 C

S. 1 dis-tance and pro-xi-mi-ty, Com-mand

S. 2 ease and dan-ger, o-pen and con-fined ground, life and death. Com-mand is

A. Com-mand is

A. Sx.

Pf. *pizz.* *arco* *ped.*

Cb.

30

S. 1 Wis-dom, In-te-gri-ty, Com-pas-sion, Cou-rage, Se-ve-ri-ty Dis-ci-pline

S. 2 spoken (1) Wis-dom, (2) In-te-gri-ty, (3) Com-pas-sion, (4) Cou-rage, (5) Se-ve-ri-ty Dis-ci-pline is or-ga-ni

A. (1) Wis-dom, (2) In-te-gri-ty, (3) Com-pas-sion, (4) Cou-rage, (5) Se-ve-ri-ty Dis-ci-pline

Pf. *ped.* *pizz.*

Cb.

D
♩=72

37

S. 1
Who has the Way? Who has the a-bi - li - ty?

S. 2
za-tion, chain of com mand, con - trol of ex-pen-di - ture. Who has the Way? Who has the a-bi - li - ty?

A.
chain of com-mand, con - trol of ex-pen-di - ture.

A. Sx.

Pf.
Ped. arco

Cb.

43

S. 1
On whose side are Hea-ven and Earth? Whose dis-ci-pline is more ef - fec - tive? Who is stron - ger? Who is

S. 2
On whose side are Hea-ven and Earth? Whose dis-ci-pline is more ef - fec - tive? Who is stron - ger? Who is

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

49 E

S. 1
bet-ter trained? For whom are re-wards and pu-nish-ments clear est?

S. 2
bet-ter trained? For whom are re-wards and pu-nish-ments clear est? Set-tle on the

A. Sx.

Pf. *f*

Cb.

54

S. 1
best plan,

S. 2
best plan, Ex - ploit the dy-na- mic with - in, de - ve-lop it with - out. Fol low

A.
best plan, Fol low

A. Sx.

Pf. *mp*

Cb. *p*

58 F

S. 2
the ad-van - tage, and mas - ter op - por - tu - ni ty.

A.
the ad-van - tage, and mas - ter op - por - tu - ni ty.

A. Sx.

Pf. *p*

Cb. *pizz.*

62

S. 1 *solo*
A Way of De - cep - tion:

S. 2 *solo*
A Way of De - cep - tion: When a - ble, feign in - a - bi - li - ty. When de

A.
A Way of De - cep - tion:

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

66

S. 2
ploy - ing, ap - pear... not to be. Lure

A.
When near, ap - pear far. When far, ap - pear near.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

70

S. 1
Lure with bait; strike with cha - os. Be pre - pared..

S. 2
with bait; strike with cha - os.

A.
strike with cha - os. Be pre - pared..

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

74

S. 1 If ³ he is strong, a - void him. If he is an - gry, dis ³ - con - cert him.

S. 2 If he is weak, - stir him to pride. If he is re - lax'd, har - ry him.

A. Sx. *mf* *p*

Pf.

Cb.

G

78

S. 1 At - tack un - pre - pared... Ap - pear where you are un - ex - pec - ted. The Skil - ful Stra - te - gist

S. 2 At - tack where he is un - pre - pared... Ap - pear where you are un - ex - pec - ted. The Skil - ful Stra - te - gist

A. At - tack un - pre - pared... The Skil - ful Stra - te - gist

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

82

S. 1 Cul - ti - vates the Way, and pre - serves the law, and thus is mas - ter of vic - to - ry and de -

S. 2 Cul - ti - vates the Way, and pre - serves the law, and thus is mas - ter of vic - to - ry and de -

A. Cul - ti - vates the Way, and pre - serves the law, and thus is mas - ter of vic - to - ry and de -

A. Sx.

Pf. *mp* < *mf* > *mp* < *mf* > *mp* < *mf* >

Cb. *arco* *mp* < *mf* > *mp* < *mf* > *mp* < *mf* >

90 **H**

S. 1 feat. Mea-sure-ment, Es - ti - ma - tion,

S. 2 feat. Mea-sure-ment, Es - ti - ma - tion,

A. feat.

A. Sx. *mp* *mf*

Pf. *mp* *mf*

Cb. *mp* *mf* *mf* *p*

97

S. 1 Cal - cu - la - tion, Com - pa - ri - son, Vic - to - ry.

S. 2 Cal - cu - la - tion, Com - pa - ri - son, Vic - to - ry.

A. Sx. *mf*

Pf. *f*

Cb. pizz. arco pizz. arco pizz. arco *f*

103 **I**

S. 1 *mp* Vic - to - ry. *p* Vic - to - ry. *mf* Earth de - ter - mines

S. 2 *mp* Vic - to - ry. *p* Vic - to - ry. *mf* Earth de - ter - mines Mea - sure - ment,

A. Earth de - ter - mines Mea - sure - ment,

A. Sx. *mp* *p*

Pf. *p* *mf*

Cb.

110

S. 1
Mea-sure-ment de - ter - mines Cal - cu - la - tion de - ter - mines

S. 2
Mea-sure-ment de-ter - mines Cal - cu - la - tion, Cal - cu - la - tion de - ter - mines

A.
Mea-sure-ment de - ter - mines Cal - cu - la - tion,

Pf.
pizz.

Cb.

113

S. 1
Com-pa-ri-son Vic - to - ry.

S. 2
Com-pa-ri-son com-pa-ri-son de-ter - mines Vic - to - ry.

A.
com-pa-ri-son de-ter - mines Vic - to - ry.

Pf.

Cb.

116

S. 2
Vic-to-ry is like a pound weighed a-against a grain. De -

A.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

J

121

S. 2
 feat is like a grain weighed a-against a pound. Vic-to-ry is like pent-up

A.
 Vic-to-ry

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

126

S. 1
 Vic-to-ry is like pent-up wa-ter cra-shing a thou-sand fa-thoms in-to a gorge.

S. 2
 wa-ter cra-shing a thou-sand fa-thoms in-to a gorge.

A.
 is like pent-up wa-ter cra-shing a thou-sand fa-thoms in-to a gorge.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

131 **K**

S. 2
 This is all a mat-ter of Forms and Dis-po-si-tions.

A.
 This is all a mat-ter of Forms and Dis-po-si-tions.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

137 **L**

S. 1 *solo* Mar-shall with

S. 2 *solo* Ma-ny is the same as few: It's a ques-tion of di - vi - sion. Mar-shall with

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb. *arco*

145

S. 1 gongs, i - den - ti - fy with flags. Com - bi - ning In - di - rect and Di - rect, Un - der - stan - ding Weak - ness and Strength,

S. 2 gongs, i - den - ti - fy with flags. Com - bi - ning In - di - rect and Di - rect, Un - der - stan - ding Weak - ness and Strength,

A. Sx. *3*

Pf.

Cb.

152 **M**

S. 1 *solo* The In - di - rect is in - fi - nite as Hea - ven and Earth, In - ex - haus - ti

S. 2 En - gage di - rect - ly, se - cure vic - to - ry in - di - rect - ly.

A. En - gage di - rect - ly, se - cure vic - to - ry in - di - rect - ly.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb. *pizz.*

160

S. 1
ble as ri-ver and sea, It ends and be-gins a-gain like sun and moon, Dies and is born a-gain

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

169

S. 1
like the four sea - sons.

S. 2
solo
There are but Five notes, and yet their per - mu - ta - tions are more than can

A. Sx.
pp

Pf.
p

Cb.

176

S. 2
e - ver be heard. There are but Five Co - lours, and yet their per - mu - ta - tions are more than can e - ver be seen.

A. Sx.
pp

Pf.

Cb.

182 O

S. 2 There are but Five Fla-vours, and yet their per-mu - ta tions are more than can e - ver be tas - ted.

A. But these Two,

A. Sx. *pp*

Pf.

Cb.

188

S. 1 They give

S. 2 They give rise — to each

A. In-di-rect and Di-rect, their per-mu - ta - tions are in-ex-haus - ti - ble. They give rise — to each o ther in a

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

193 P

S. 1 rise — to each o - ther in a ne - ver - en - ding in - ex - haus - ti - ble cir - cle.

S. 2 o - ther in a ne - ver - en - ding in - ex - haus - ti - ble cir - cle. A rush - ing tor - rent car - ries boul - ders

A. ne - ver - en - ding in - ex - haus - ti - ble cir - cle.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

198

S. 1
on its flood; of its mo-men- tum, the

S. 2
on its flood; Such is the e-ner-gy of its mo-men - tum. A swoo-ping fal - con breaks the back of its prey;

A.
of its mo-men - tum.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

203

S. 1
back of its prey; De-vas-ta-ting e-ner-gy, taut ti-ming.

S. 2
Such is the pre-ci-sion of its ti-ming. De-vas-ta-ting e-ner-gy, taut ti-ming. Dis

A.
Such is the pre-ci-sion of its ti-ming. De-vas-ta-ting e-ner-gy, taut ti-ming.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

Q
♩ = 72

mf

207

S. 2
or-der is four-ded on or - der, Fear on Cou- rage, weak - ness on strength.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

arco

mf

211

S. 2 Or - der - ly dis - or - der is based on care - ful di - vi - sion, cou - ra - geous fear on po - ten - tial

A. Sx. *mp*

Pf.

Cb. *pizz.*

216

S. 1 Like rol - ling logs or

S. 2 e - ner - gy, strong weak - ness on dis - po - si - tions.

A. strong weak - ness on dis - po - si - tions.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

R

221

S. 1 boul - ders: By their na - ture, on le vel ground, logs and boul - ders stay still; on

S. 2 stay still;

A. stay still;

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

227

S. 1 steep ground they move. they halt. they roll — boul-ders rol-ling down a migh-ty

S. 2 they move. Square, they halt. Round, they roll like round_ boul-ders rol-ling down a migh - ty

A. they move. they halt. they roll down a migh - ty

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

233

S. 1 moun-tain-side.

S. 2 moun-tain-side.

A. moun-tain-side. These are all mat-ters of po-ten-tial e-ner-gy.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb. arco

♩=66

239

S. 2 First on the field waits. fresh. Last on the field char-ges in, ex-haus-ted. To

A. First on the field waits. fresh. Last on the field char-ges in, ex-haus-ted.

A. Sx.

Pf. *mf* *p* *mp*

Cb.

♩=108

[S]

242

S. 2
stir and not be stirred, to lure on or ob - struct from co - ming, to un - set - tle the set - tled,

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

248

S. 2
ap - pea - ring at the place where least ex - pec - ted. With - out form,

A.
With - out form,

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

$\text{♩} = 66$

253

S. 1
ir - re - sis - tib - ly, then re - trea - ting, too swift to be caught.

S. 2
with - out sound, ad - van - cing ir - re - sis - tib - ly, then re - trea - ting, too swift to be caught.

A.
with - out sound, ad - van - cing

Pf.

Cb.

$\text{♩} = 108$

T

♩=100

258

S. 1

S. 2

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

If I wish to en - gage, then, for all his_ high ram - parts and deep moat, he

265

S. 2

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

can-not a-void the en - gage - ment. I at-tack that which he is ob-liged to res-cue!

p

pizz. "snap"

sf

270

S. 1

S. 2

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

I can hold my ground

If I do_ not wish to en-gage, I can hold my ground with no - thing more than a

sf

arco

275 rit.

S. 2
line drawn_ a-round it. He can-not en-gage me:

A.
He can-not en-gage me: 3 dis-tract him in a dif-ferent di-rec-tion.

A. Sx.
3 *triss*

Pf.

Cb.

U

28 $\text{♩} = 66$

S. 1
His form is

S. 2
His form is

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

285

S. 1
vi-si-ble but I am form-less. I am con-cen-tra-ted, he is di-vi-ded. I am

S. 2
vi-si-ble but I am form-less. I am con-cen-tra-ted, he is di-vi-ded. I am

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

289

S. 1
con-cen-tra-ted in - to one, he is di - vi - ded in - to ten. I am ten to his one,

S. 2
con-cen-tra-ted in - to one, he is di - vi - ded in - to ten. I am ten to his one,

A. Sx.
gliss.

Pf.

Cb.

292

S. 1
ma-ny a-gainst his few. V

S. 2
ma-ny a-gainst his few.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

295

S. 2
Fo - cus on him,

A.
Fo - cus on him,

A. Sx.
3

Pf.

Cb.

298

S. 2
scru - ti - nize him, know the flaws in his plans.

A.
scru - ti - nize him, know the flaws in his plans.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

301

S. 1
Rouse him, dis - co - ver the springs in his ac - tions.

S. 2
Rouse him, dis - co - ver the springs in his ac - tions.

A.
Rouse him, dis - co - ver the springs in his ac - tions.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

304

W

S. 1
These things must be stu - died: The va - ri -

S. 2
These things must be stu - died:

A.
These things

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

mp

312

S. 1
a - tions of the Nine Kinds of Ground, The Ad - van - ta - ges_ of Fle - xi - ble_ Ma - noe - vre, The

S. 2
The va - ri - a - tions of the Nine Kinds of Ground, The Ad - van - ta - ges_ of Fle - xi - ble_ Ma - noe - vre,

A.
must be stu - died: The va - ri - a - tions of the Nine Kinds of Ground, The Ad - van - ta - ges_ of

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

320

S. 1
Prin - ci - ples of Hu - man Na - ture.

S. 2
The Prin - ci - ples of Hu - man Na - ture.

A.
Fle - xi - ble_ Ma - noe - vre, The Prin - ci - ples of Hu - man Na - ture. On scat - ter - ring ground,

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

X

mp

pizz.

mf

328

S. 1
we u - nite the will. we keep con-nec-ted. On stra - te - gic ground, we bring³up our rear. On

S. 2
we u - nite the will. On light ground, we keep con-nec-ted. we bring up our rear...

A.
we u - nite the will. we keep con-nec- ted. we bring up our rear...

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

334

S. 1
o - pen ground, we see to our de-fen- ces. westreng - then our al - li - an - ces

S. 2
we see to our de-fen- ces. On cross - road ground, westreng - then our al - li - an - ces

A.
we see to our de-fen- ces. westreng - then our al - li - an - ces On

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

340

S. 1
we en - sure con - ti - nu - i - ty of sup - plies... we keep on the

S. 2
we en - sure... con - ti - nu - i - ty of sup - plies... On in - trac - ti - ble ground we keep on the

A.
hea - vy ground, we en - sure con - ti - nu - i - ty of sup - plies... we keep on the

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

346

S. 1
move... we block the pas - ses. On death ground, we de - mon - strate the des - p'rate - ness

S. 2
move... On en - clos'd - ground, we block the pas - ses. On death ground, we de - mon - strate the des - p'rate - ness

A.
move... we block the pas - ses. we de - mon - strate the des - p'rate - ness

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

351 Y

S. 1
of the si tu-a-tion.

S. 2
of the si tu-a-tion. If he o-pens a door, rush in _____ and

A.
of the si tu a tion.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.
arco
mp gliss.

355

S. 1
Dis - card the rules,

S. 2
seize_ what he holds dear, and se-cret - ly con - trive an en-coun-ter. Dis - card the rules,

A.
Dis - card the rules,

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.
mp gliss. *mp* gliss. *mp* gliss.

360 Z

S. 1 Fol-low him to fight_ the de - ci - sive bat-tle. At first,___ be like a mai-den.

S. 2 the de - ci - sive bat-tle. At first,___ be like a mai-den.

A. the de - ci - sive bat-tle. At first,___ be like a mai-den.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb. *mp* *gliss.*

365

S. 1 When he o - pens the door, be swift___ as a hare;___ He

S. 2 When he o - pens the door, be swift___ as a hare;___ He

A. When he o - pens the door, be swift___ as a hare;___ He

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.

369

S. 1
will not with - stand you.

S. 2
will not with - stand you.

A.
will not with - stand you.

A. Sx.

Pf.

Cb.