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NEW HAVEN — Not to be left out of the city's great week for spotlighting new works and talented composers, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra Thursday will sandwich "Monk Dances," a commissioned work by composer-in-residence Jin Hi Kim, between two of Beethoven's arguably most popular works, Symphony No. 6 and Symphony No. 5.

"Pairing the Fifth and Sixth in one program makes a very powerful statement, but we do them in reverse order," said Music Director William Boughton, noting, "the andante and the C-major finale in the Fifth — you just can't follow it."

If ever there were a populist program, this might be it — "The Pastoral" and The One. The latter work by the German genius is one that just about the most casual classical music listener can identify.

Kim's work was a 2007 commission by the symphony, which she played during that season, astounding the audience with her virtuoso work on the Korean komungo. It should prove interesting for Thursday's audience to hear the work under the baton of Boughton, as opposed to his predecessor Jung-Ho Pak.

Both Beethoven symphonies were composed and premiered at the same time on Dec. 12, 1808, which is why the NHSO programmed them together in a re-enactment of their births.

Musically and thematically, they are quite different, the Sixth or "Pastoral," just that, an homage to nature which is soothing and sonorous, the Fifth a fiery and dramatic chase.

Boughton promised some technical changes, and audiences will note that the positioning of the orchestra on stage "will create a completely different sound world than what the audience is used to," all in keeping with the authenticity of the premiere night.

Kim is in the final year of a two-year residence, which was supported by a $100,000 Music Alive grant from Meet the Composer and the League of American Orchestras. The two-year project, titled Shifting Patterns, brought both Kim and Augusta Read Thomas to the symphony to compose and present school residencies, family concerts and community concerts.