



The Love Deamon Song Cycle

Featuring:

Theron Brown(Piano)

Zaire Darden (Drums)

Patrick Graney (Percussion)

Tommy Lehman (Trumpet)

Chris Coles (Saxophones)

Jordan McBride (Bass)

The Love Deamon Song Cycle is a collection of songs that takes critical moments in the story arc of Gaara of the Sand. The cycle will go through Gaara's birth, his descent to darkness, Gaara's meeting of Naruto, His first death, his final confrontation with his father and his ultimate redemption to becoming one of the most beloved people in his village and abroad.

I. Mother's Gift (MC):

When Gaara was in the womb of his mother Karuna, Gaara's father Rasa sealed the one tailed sand spirit Shukaku into Gaara. In the Naruto Universe they call people who possess these spirits Jinjuriki. Having a tailed beast sealed in Gaara causes great stress to both him and Karuna and Gaara is born prematurely. The pregnancy kills Karuna but before she dies she gives him his name Gaara which means "Self Loving Deamon" (Or Shura). She also vows to love and protect him even through her inevitable transition from this life. This can be seen through the sand that protects his body from harm. I liken the love of a mother to that of the unconditional love of God or the Universe. To symbolize this I created cells from a famous hymn and reconstructed it to sound like a different song.

II. Bittersweet Optimism (of The Blues)

As a young child Gaara had a lot of questions about suffering and pain. Oftentimes he would have conversations with his caretaker Yashimaru (who is also the brother of Karuna) about these very issues. In a scene Gaara says to Yashimaru that "he has a continuous pain here" and he points to his heart. Yashimaru cuts his hand and tells Gaara that physical pains heal but that the "pain of the heart can only be healed with time and love". This kind of cheered Gaara up because he thought that someday maybe the pain will go away through love. I use the blues form because it is the quintessential form of the bittersweet nature of life.

III. The Descent to Darkness: "Jibun dake o aisuru" (Love only yourself)
Gaara's father Rasa wants to test Gaara to see if he's suitable to be the Jinjuriki of the One Tailed Beast Shukaku so he plots an assassination attempt and he uses the only person who shows Gaara love. He uses

Yashimaru to carry out this command. He tells Yasimaru specifically to tell Gaara that his mother never loved him, that he (Yashimaru) hates him and that the sand that protects him is the result of the demon that lives in him. This does not go well and Gaara kills Yashimaru and is transformed into Shukaku for the first time. Before his transformation he says "I may as well become what you all want me to be. The demon who only loves himself." He carves above his left eye the kanji for Love, which is "Ai"(hence the word "aisuru").

IV. Sword Logic

Gaara now fully embracing the darkness and no longer willing to deal with the ignorance of people becomes a skilled but bloodthirsty shinobi. During the Chunin exams (These are exams for young shinobi to rank up straight out of ninja academy) Gaara displayed a general lack of acknowledgement for anyone's life and tries to literally kill every opponent. He makes it to the final exams and faces Naruto in battle. Naruto defeats Gaara and Naruto spares his life (even after he nearly kills Sasuke and Rock Lee).

V. es flora de espora (a larkspur blossoms)(LM)

Gaara is now at age 15 (approximately) and has become the Kazekage of the Hidden Sand (his father Rasa has passed at this point). The village is under attack by a group called the Akatsui and Gaara is captured and has the One Tails extracted from him. A Jinjuriki cannot survive without the tailed beast in them so Gaara dies and is revived by Granny Chiyo (a medical ninja of the Hidden Sand. She gives her life in exchange for his using a forbidden jutsu). She sees this as a repentance for all of the terrible things the old generation did in the name of power (she also was the medical ninja that sealed the tailed beast in Gaara). When Gaara wakes he is greeted by Naruto and his entire village. Gaara feels all the love from his people and Naruto asks the group to pray for Chiyo. At this point Gaara has been transformed from bloodthirsty killer to beloved Kazekage.

VI. Release

In the Fourth Great Ninja War, all previous Kage (Leaders of villages) and strong Shinobi are reanimated to fight what is now the Shinobi Alliance. Gaara is charged with fighting his father, the reanimated Rasa. As the fight goes on Gaara catches his father in his sealing Jutsu called Sand Coffin, but this version of the Jutsu is different. The coffin is shaped in the form of Gaara's mother Karuna, fulfilling her promise to protect and love him. As Rasa is captured in Karuna's arms, Rasa tells Gaara that he was a terrible father and that his mother indeed did love him. Rasa also tells Gaara that he told Yashimaru to lie to him. Now knowing that his mother did love him this sets Gaara free and brings peace to him.

VII. Forward, Always (TB)

With this new found freedom from all the pain that his village caused him, Gaara goes on to be one of the most beloved characters in the series. Because Naruto showed love to him at his lowest moment he set forth this new path to Gaara and through living and experiencing life he found his way to a deeper meaning of life. Naruto was thrown into the darkness by the Village he grew up in and even in spite of that he moved forward to seek the acknowledgement of his village. Offering this path of growth through suffering was the key to Gaara's growth and his rise to become one of the most beloved characters in the series. This work is my expression of that through music.