

3/7/2020 (Fri) 8pm
Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall
Conductor: Chew Hee Chiat

Programme Notes

Chamber Ensemble **Mirage** Matthew Lam

The music is inspired by mirage, and the composer aims not only to depict mirage in this piece but also to explore various timbre and effects for chamber Chinese music ensemble.

The structure of the music is very simplistic, in ABABA form. In A sections, harmonics are ubiquitously employed by the plucked string instruments and the bowed string instruments with the compositional technique of aleatory music, aiming to describe the mirage. As the music develops, the main melody would slowly appear. B sections are constructed upon 6 chords, and *sheng* takes the leading role. The 6 chords are not traditional triads, for example, one of them is a quartal harmony which only consists of perfect 4ths. By this, the music could build its unique momentum which could not be achieved by conventional harmony. Lastly, it is worth mentioning that in the first half of the music, the composer avoids using pitches from the lower register to facilitate a floating feeling. Lower register pitches would only appear in the latter part of the music to match the music's development.

- Matthew Lam

Matthew Lam Composer

Matthew Lam is a Music undergraduate at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, with specialism in Composition. His mentors included Professor Chan Kai-yong and Dr Phoebus Lee Kar-ta, and currently Dr Lo Hau-man. He is also taking piano lessons from Dr Timothy Kwok Ka Ho. As winner of the Toolbox Percussion International Composition Competition 2019 (TPICC 2019), he was awarded a full scholarship to participate in the 2nd edition of the Toolbox International Creative Academy (TICA).

Lam is an active composer with a keen interest in contemporary music, and for this focus, he has been exploring and experimenting with new styles and techniques. His works have been heard on many musical occasions, including the Bauhinia Concert (2017 and 2018), 'Musical Convergence' concert presented by the Hong Kong Composers Guild, 'Music from the Heart' concert presented by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Toolbox International Creative Academy 2020 opening concert, and on air by RTHK Radio 4. Ensembles that have performed his works include the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the Mivos Quartet of USA, Music-joint Association, Stellar Trio, and Toolbox Percussion.

Tranquility Wong Ching-yin

Thoughts and ideas will brew when one stays quietly in a certain space. In order for these thoughts to take shape, they must be supported by physical space. Alternating between "space" and "thoughts", the music toes the line between fantasy and reality. As we journey through various spaces, we can look forward to the kind of thoughts and emotions that gradually develop or suddenly blossom into being.

- Wong Ching-yin

Wong Ching-yin Composer

Wong is currently studying music at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in the final year taking composition stream, also majoring in pipe organ under Dr. Anne Lam. His compositions are focused in Chinese orchestral and contemporary chamber works. Recent works include Wind Quintet *Wandering Glimmer and Broken Light* written for the Hong Kong Wind Kamerata and Zheng Concerto *Aurora IV*. His works have been performed locally and internationally in China, Sweden etc. In 2019, under guidance of Rolf Martinsson, Staffan

House Rules

Welcome to the Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall. Before the performance begins, please switch off your mobile phones and any other sound and light emitting devices. Please also be reminded that unauthorized photography, recording and filming are not allowed. No smoking in the venue. Thank you for your cooperation.

Audience Survey

Thank you for coming to the HKCO concert. Please tell us your opinion and suggestions by completing this survey, so that we can further improve our performance in the future. Your feedback is highly appreciated. Thank you.



Storm, Kent Olofsson and Ricordi artist Luca Francesconi at the Malmö Academy of Music, Wong had two successful European premieres, adding brass ensemble piece *Lointain* and an electroacoustic-instrumental work *Aurora 0 – Search for Light*, written for *erhu* and surrounded sound, to his oeuvre. At his hometown, the chamber work *Paddy Field* was performed by Ensemble Mise-en in 2018. The Mivos Quartet performed his work *Oblivion* at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. *All but Love* for orchestra was premiered by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra and *Erhu Trio Mixture* entered the 'Match-making Concert' by RTHK. For Chinese music, Wong's works *Entanglements* and *Fanfare* were selected for the 'Music from the Heart' concerts of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra. In March 2016, his Chinese orchestral miniature *...Standing at the far end of street, where the candlelight is the dimmest* was performed and discussed in the orchestral workshop at the *Chinese Music Without Bounds - International Composers' Summit*. He also actively participated in 'Bauhinia Concerts' in the university.

Studied in the studio of Mr. Cheung Wai-fung, Wong is also an active *erhu* musician. Currently the Concertmaster of the Hong Kong Youth Chinese Orchestra, he has followed the orchestra to tours in Singapore, Taiwan, Shenyang and Shanghai. Wong participates in the Chamber Chinese Orchestra of the Chinese University of Hong Kong as *erhu* musician and student conductor and has toured in Tsinghua University at Beijing China, as well as University of Cambridge and University of Oxford in the United Kingdom as delegation of the university.

Epiphyllum Tam Yat-sing

Refreshingly fragrant, the epiphyllum flower blooms only at night for a brief time; it gives it the nickname "Beauty under the Moon". The music envisages a chance encounter with blooming epiphyllum flowers, and is divided into four sections: *Shadow of the Moon*, *Faint Fragrance*, *Dance of the Spirits*, and *Beauty under the Moon*.

- Tam Yat-sing

Tam Yat-sing Composer

Tam Yat-sing is a young musician born in Hong Kong. He holds a Bachelor of Music and a Master of Arts (Music) degrees from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is well-versed in many Chinese and Western musical instruments, having trained in the piano under Bernard Hui, the cello under Cheung Ming-yuen and the *yangqin* as a minor instrument under Chan Kwok-fai during his studies at the university.

Tam joined the New Tune Chinese Orchestra in 2007 and has toured Canada, Indonesia, Beijing, Gansu, Sichuan, Chaozhou and Zhuhai with the group. He is now a cello and double bass player in the Orchestra. He is currently Secretary and Head of Publication of the New Tune Music Association. He performed as piano solo in *Yellow River Concerto* in August 2014, and played *Le carnaval des animaux* in March 2013 (both pieces re-orchestrated for Chinese Orchestra by the late Yau Siu-pun). Performance aside, Tam has also served as adjudicator for the Tuen Mun District Chinese and Western Musical Instrument Competition.

Tam learned composition under Yau Siu-pun. In 2017, his composition, *Beating the Petty Person*, swept off three prizes at the *Chinese Music Without Bounds - International Composition Competition*, including 'Best Work on a Hong Kong Theme', 'Media and Publishers' Favourite Original Composition' and 'Audience Favourite Original Composition' which was voted by the audience on site. The work made its world premiere at the Finals Concert of the Competition. His *Taotiethe Glutton* (also won the audience's and orchestra member's votes on the favourite original work), *Lautau Peak* and *Leaping Over the Dragon Gate* was premiered at the 'Music from the Heart' concert series of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra in 2019, 2018 and 2016 respectively.

Renovated Tradition – Mysterious Rain, Dance Austin Leung

Renovated Tradition is a suite, with each short piece featuring some traditional elements, but in many ways, also attempts to break free from them. *Mysterious Rain* and *Dance* are two short standalone works.

Mysterious Rain forms different textures by employing the different tonal colours within the configuration of a Chinese orchestra. The short, dynamic passages have a subtle, transformative quality to them.

Dance carries a light and brisk rhythm and features a melody that is alternated between the orchestra and the solo instrumentation. Although the piece has very traditional elements, its development introduces possibilities for tonal changes in a Chinese orchestra.

- Austin Leung

Austin Leung Composer

An up-and-upcoming composer from Hong Kong, Austin Leung holds a Master of Music in Music Composition from the Royal Academy of Music, London. He is currently a PhD candidate in Music Composition at the University of Hong Kong. He was the first Hong Kong winner of the Royal Philharmonic Society Composition Prize.

Leung is passionate about composing new works of Chinese music, and his compositions range from solos to works for full-size orchestras. They have been performed by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Windpipe Chinese Music Ensemble, Chinese Music Virtuosi, and Hong Kong New Music Ensemble.

I Dreamt I Saw a Sunken Sea

Wu Kwan-yu

The theme and conceit of *I Dreamt I Saw a Sunken Sea* are based on scenes that the composer saw in his dreams. An effort is made to describe a space created from the sea and the night with modern music techniques and its obscured and mysterious mood. The piece consists of two short movements. The first, *The Nightingale*, builds on string clusters linked by cantabile melodies from the winds and plucked-strings, creating a dimly lit environment; the second movement, *The Sunken Sea*, is made up of fragmentary passages that depict the sea in its various states seen from different angles and perspectives, before it closes with everything sinking into the pitch black depths.

- Wu Kwan-yu

Wu Kwan-yu Composer

Wu Kwan-yu is currently an undergraduate minoring in Music at the University of Hong Kong. He studied composition and instrumentation under Professor Joshua Chan. A long-time *sheng* and piano player, he has been awarded a Diploma in Sheng Performance and Grade 8 for the piano. While in secondary school, he was the leader of the La Salle College Chinese Orchestra and was a *sheng* performer with the Hong Kong Juvenile & Youth Chinese Classical Orchestra. He was a member of the HKU Chamber Singers and had performed on many occasions. His duet for *sheng* and *zhongruan*, *August Nocturne*, was featured in the 2015 'Music from the Heart' concert series presented by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra.

Night Thoughts Leung Hong-yu

I got woken up again
Fragmented thoughts kept flashing through my mind
The same memories filled my head
Bustling
Crumbling away like rust

I'm tired

I got woken up again
The fragmented thoughts surfaced once more
The same memories came flooding back

I'm tired

I got woken up again
The fragmented thoughts surfaced once more
The same memories came flooding back

I'm tired

I got woken up again

- Leung Hong-yu

Leung Hong-yu Composer

Leung Hong-yu is in his first year of undergraduate studies in Music at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He started to explore 20th century and contemporary music a year ago, and now his orientation has shifted from the orchestral works of the Romantic Period to chamber works with more of a contemporary touch. His first work with contemporary sounds was featured at the 2019 'Bauhinia Concert'. Moreover, his works *Echoes of Spring* and *Deadline Jitters* are also selected for New Generation 2020 organized by the Hong Kong Composers Guild and Ensemble in Residence 2020 of The Chinese University of Hong Kong respectively.

Besides Music Composition, Leung majoring in violin under the supervision of Goh Ching. He was also trained under Alan Kwong and Jensen Lung.

Adjudicators (In alphabetical order)

CHEW Hee Chiat

Resident Conductor of the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra

HUI Cheung-wai

Principal of Hong Kong Music Institute, Honorary Composer-in-Residence of the Hong Kong Harmonica Association, Composer-in-Residence of the Hong Kong Guitar Orchestra, Featured Composer of Musicarama 2012, CASH Golden Sail Music Awards Best Serious Composition Awardee

MUI Kwong-chiu

Hong Kong renowned composer, Chairman of the Hong Kong Composers' Guild

NG Cheuk-yin

Composer, music producer, *sheng* performer, *a cappella* artist, Hong Kong Sinfonietta's first Artist Associate, the Chinese University of Hong Kong's first resident composer, Music Director of the fusion group SIU2 and the Co-artistic Director of the *a cappella* theatre company Yat Po Singers

Alfred WONG

Local composer, currently teaching music arrangement and composition courses at The Education University of Hong Kong and the School of Professional and Continuing Education of the University of Hong Kong

Performing Members

Conductor: Chew Hee Chiat

Eco-Erhu: Zhang Chongxue, Xu Hui, Mak Ka Yin, Wan Yun-an, Han Jingna, So Shun Yin

Eco-Gaohu: Zhou Yi, Peng Cheng, Law Wing Nin

Eco-Zhonghu: Mao Qinghua, Hui Yin, Li Xiaoding

Eco-Gehu: Tung Hiu Lo, Wu Fan, Cheung Tin Chun

Eco-Bass Gehu: Qi Hongwei, Chan Ka Man

Yangqin: Lee Meng-hsueh

Xiaoruan: Ge Yang

Pipa: Zhang Ying

Zhongruan: Fung Yin Lam, Wu Man-lin

Daruan: Lau Yuek-lam

Sanxian: Zhao Taisheng

Zheng: Yang Tsan-ju

Qudi: Sun Yongzhi

Bangdi: Lin Yu-hsien

Xindi / Dadi: Chan Chi Yuk

Soprano Sheng: Chen Yi-wei

Tenor Sheng: Yuen Kin Hei

Bass Sheng: Huang Ying-ti

Soprano Suona: Ma Wai Him

Alto Suona: Kwan Lok Tin

Guanzi: Lo Wai Leung, Wu Chun Hei

Percussion: Luk Kin Bun, Huang Hsuan-ning, Liao Yi-ping

Freelance Musician

© Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is strictly prohibited.

www.hkco.org

Translation by KCL Language Consultancy Ltd.