

About the Piano and Erhu Project

Twilight is the fourth in a series of concerts in Nicole Ge Li and Corey Hamm's piano and erhu project (PEP).

Over forty Canadian and Chinese composers have already agreed to write works for erhu and piano to be premiered, recorded, and toured in both Canada and China. To date, the list of composers includes James Harley, Brian Cherney, Hope Lee, David Eagle, Douglas Finch, Daniel Marshall, Elizabeth Raum, Dai Fujikura, Alexis Renault, Michael Park, John Oliver, Scott Godin, Stephen Chatman, Keith Hamel, Bob Pritchard, Jordan Nobles, Jocelyn Morlock, Gabriel Dharmoo, Paul Steenhuisen, Marc Mellits, Remy Siu, Dorothy Chang, Edward Top, Chris Gainey, Dubravko Pajalic, Jared Miller, Martin Ritter, Alyssa Aska, Alfredo Santa Ana, Francois Houle, Owen Underhill, Vivian Fung, Hope Lee, Jian Qiang Xu, Yuan Qing Li, Ying Jiang, Joshua Chan, Si Ang Chen, I Yu Wang, Laura Pettigrew, Laurie Radford, Chan Kan Nin, Alice Ho, Emily Doolittle.

Thank you!

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Twilight

PEP

Piano and Erhu Project

Nicole Ge Li *erhu*

Corey Hamm *piano*

May 24, 2014 | 8:00 pm
Roy Barnett Recital Hall
University of British Columbia

Twilight

Saturday, May 24, 2014 8:00 pm

Roy Barnett Recital Hall, UBC School of Music

Programme 節目單

World Premiere 世界首演

Mei Li de Hua (2013)
美麗的花 Laura Pettigrew

such that I left a dream (2013)
我留下的一個夢 Daniel Marshall

Play 奏 Alyssa Aska
i. Crossfade 交織
ii. Pluck 撥彈
iii. Box 運弓
iv. Extend 延伸

Blue (2013)
藍 James Harley

Intermission

Twilight (2014)
暮光 Si Ang Chen
陳思昂

Thunderhorse (2013)
電馬行空 Martin Ritter

Blues n' Grooves (2014)
舞動藍調 Roydon Tse

Blues n' Grooves 舞動藍調

Written in 2014 for Nicole and Corey, Blues n' Grooves is a short showpiece piece for erhu and piano. Incorporating the blues scale, the piece is divided between the more lyrical A section, and a jazzy Vivace section. The inspiration for the piece came from listening to Hilary Hahn's CD *In 27 pieces*, featuring encores from 27 living composers. I liked the idea of writing a 'short piece with attitude' that can fit easily into a concert program, thus the piece was born.

充滿爵士元素，討巧地小曲，十分感染人。

Roydon Tse

Hailed by the Vancouver Sun as a composer "glittering with professionalism", Roydon Tse (b.1991) is an emerging Hong Kong/Canadian composer currently studying at the University of Toronto. He completed his Bachelors in Music Composition at the University of British Columbia, studying with Professors Dorothy Chang and Stephen Chatman, and is now finishing up his Masters with Christos Hatzis and Gary Kulesha. His music has been presented by ensembles such as the Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Victoria Symphony Orchestras, the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra, Land's End Chamber Ensemble, and Quatour Bozzini. This June, his orchestral piece *Remembrances* will be recorded by the Brno Philharmonic Orchestra in the Czech Republic, and will be part of a new-music CD coming out on Naxos this October.

Thunderhorse 電馬行空

I wanted to write an energetic piece with lots of drive and technical exertion for the performers, but at the same time explore one traditional playing technique of the erhu. I chose to use the "horse" sound – a rapid triplet gesture - as a starting point. Keeping with the idea of the traditional, the pitch material for this piece was derived from the spectral content of a python hiss. Python skin was conventionally used as a building material for the erhu. Combining these elements with my, at the time, newborn daughter's obsession with heavy metal music and her insistence on listening to the same song continually for hours, the end result is a fast paced, unrelenting assault on the performers as well as the audience.

未來世界的電馬，激動亢奮充滿力量。

Martin Ritter

Martin Ritter writes both electroacoustic and acoustic works and develops software tools in different languages. He has worked for theatrical productions, movie productions and has created interactive museum installations. His collaborations include performers such as Eric Wilson, Jesse Read, Corey Hamm, Paolo Bortolussi, Mark McGregor, Ralph Markham and Kenneth Broadway. He has worked with ensembles like the Phoenix Chamber Choir, Vancouver Chamber Choir, Standing Wave, has participated in the Toronto Canadian Contemporary Music Workshop, was active on the board of Vancouver Pro Musica, and is a founding member of the Composers' Collective as well as Vox Tactum. He is an educator, teaching music fundamentals to children and has sporadically been working with various organizations in the Vancouver area as a computer programmer and audio technician. His main composition instructors are Keith Hamel and Bob Pritchard. Currently he is a doctoral candidate in music composition at UBC.

Please turn off all camera, laptop, cell phone and recording devices.
Their use is strictly prohibited during the performance. Thank you for joining us!

Performer Biographies

Nicole Ge Li *erhu*

Nicole Ge Li is currently Concert Master of the B.C. Chinese Orchestra and gaohu soloist with the BC Chinese Music Ensemble.

Li began learning Erhu at the early age of six, and started training professionally at the age of 11. She graduated from the Shanghai Conservatory of Music in 2008 with a Bachelor’s degree in Erhu. In 2002, while still a student, Li won second place in the Daily Art Competition, a national music competition in China. In 2011, she organized and performed in her own erhu recital in Vancouver, the first full-scale erhu performance of its kind held in Canada. In 2013, she was invited to perform for Prime Minister Stephen Harper as the only Chinese instrumental soloist at the Chinese New Year Gala in Vancouver. Later that year, Li performed the celebrated Gaohu concerto “Butterfly Lovers” with the BC Chinese Orchestra.

As a performing artist, Li is known for her interpretive expressiveness, stylistic versatility and ability to transverse a wide range of musical genres from the East to the West, from the traditional to the avant garde.

Corey Hamm *piano*

Dr. Corey Hamm has commissioned, premiered and recorded over 200 solo, chamber and concerto works from such Canadian composers as Cherney, Hamel, Chang, Morlock, Bashaw, Harley, Harman, Forsyth, and composers from all over the world.

Corey was soloist in the World Premiere of Jordan Nobles’ *Piano Concerto* with Bramwell Tovey and the VSO, and in Ravel’s *Piano Concerto for the Left Hand*, Faure’s *Fantasia*, and *Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue*. Hamm gave World Premieres of solo and chamber works written for him and the Nu:BC Collective by Chang, Hamel, Bashaw, Godin, as well as existing works by Rzewski, Fujikura, Ter Veldhuis, with concerts, masterclasses and lectures across North America and in Hong Kong. Recordings on Redshift Records include *Terra Nova* with VSO

jazz, and has most recently worked as an interactive computer musician, notably in the duo ~spin~ with flutist Ellen Waterman.

Twilight 暮光

The sweet sound of this piece depicts the first rays of dawn breaking through the morning mist that fills the atmosphere. The harmonic background provided by the piano brings out the erhu’s unique melodic capacity.

早晨第一束陽光，照耀著晶瑩的露珠，淡淡的霧氣，籠罩著天地。樂曲在鋼琴和聲的襯托下，著重二胡旋律性強的特點。

Si Ang Chen 陳思昂

Chen Si Ang is a Chinese composer who currently teaches at the Xinghai Conservatory of Music in Guangzhou China. In 2004, he was admitted to the undergraduate music composition program at the Central Music Conservatory (China) on a prestigious professional scholarship. In 2009, he was awarded a sponsorship on the strength of his academic excellence to continue his studies in the graduate department of the conservatory. Chen has been under the tutelage of renowned composer Professor Tang Jianping and has also attended classes conducted by such great masters as Rachman and Lindberg.

Chen’s works have received critical acclaim and have been performed by many symphony orchestras, including the Chinese National Symphony Orchestra, Chinese National Cinema Symphony Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and the Shanghai Ethnic Music Orchestra. Chen has also been commissioned by Beijing Modern Music Festival and the Central Music Conservatory 211 Chamber Music Project to compose original works. In 2009 he was invited to participate in the Donaueschingen Festival.

she studied with Jeffrey Stolet, David Crumb, and Robert Kyr, and her M.Mus in Composition from the University of British Columbia, under the supervision of Keith Hamel and Robert Pritchard. Her music has been performed at concerts, festivals, and symposiums in Canada and the United States. She is also an active composer for media, having provided the soundtrack for both Canadian and European films. Alyssa is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Composition at the University of Calgary under the supervision of David Eagle.

Blue 藍

Blue was composed in 2013 for Nicole Li and Corey Hamm. The music evokes elements of folk music without trying to be too specific. The piano part is full of rhythmic energy, in the manner of a toccata, while the erhu floats over top.

短小的民謠元素時而被二胡奏出，鋼琴從始至終進行著托卡塔的演奏方式。托卡塔，泛指樂曲速度較快，節奏均勻，俱有炫技性。

James Harley

James Harley is a Canadian composer presently teaching at the University of Guelph. He obtained his doctorate in composition at McGill University in 1994, after spending six years (1982-88) composing and studying music in Europe (London, Paris, Warsaw). His music has been awarded prizes in Canada, USA, UK, France, Poland, Japan, and has been performed and broadcast around the world. Some of Harley’s compositions are available on disc (Artifact, ATMA, Centrediscs, Dame, Kappa, McGill, Musicworks, PeP, Soundprints) and his scores are primarily available through the Canadian Music Centre. He has been commissioned by, among others, Codes d’Accès, Continuum, ECM, Hammerhead Consort, Kappa, Kore, New Music Concerts, Oshawa-Durham Symphony, Open Ears Festival, Polish Society for New Music, SMCQ, Transit Festival Leuven, Transmission, Trio Phoenix, Vancouver New Music. He composes music for acoustic forces as well as electroacoustic media, with a particular interest in multi-channel audio. As a researcher, Harley has written extensively on contemporary music. His book, *Xenakis: His Life in Music* (Routledge) was published in 2004. As a performer, Harley has a background in

clarinetist Cris Inguanti, and newly released CDs of Frederic Rzewski’s *The People United Will Never Be Defeated!* (deemed excellent by Rzewski himself) and *Beyond Shadows* with the Nu:BC Collective, to be released next year. Recently, Hamm premiered Jocelyn Morlock’s *Vulpine* with VSO violinist Nicholas Wright and the Music on Main All Star Band, and played Schoenberg’s *Pierrot Lunaire* with Valdine Anderson and the VSO under Bramwell Tovey.

In 2013-14 Hamm will give the World Premiere of over forty new Chinese and Canadian works for piano and erhu with virtuoso erhu player Nicole Li as part of their exciting cross-cultural Piano and Erhu Project (PEP). This project involves premiering and recording these works (Redshift Records) before touring them in both Canada and China.

Dr. Hamm is Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber Music, and Acting Chair of the UBC Keyboard Division at the UBC School of Music. He is Co-Director of the UBC Contemporary Players. Dr. Hamm recieved the 2008/2009 UBC Killam Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is on the Piano Faculty of the Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice (SICPP, or Sick Puppy) at the New England Conservatory in Boston. His beloved teachers include Lydia Artymiw, Marek Jablonski, Stephane Lemelin, Ernesto Lejano, and Thelma Johannes O’Neill.

Programme Notes

Mei Li de Hua 美麗的花

The intent of my work is to honour Mr. Jon Lim Chung Yee who graciously shared his life story with me reflecting on the trials and tribulations he endured as an immigrant to Canada in 1956 and subsequently the success he achieved. Mei Li de Hua is the Chinese name bestowed on me by Mr. Yee stating I brought great chi and energy into his home. Ch'i literally means "air" or "breath". As a concept it refers to the energy flow or life force said to pervade all things. Needless to say I was humbled and honoured.

美麗的花，美麗的人，美麗的地方，中國傳統味十足。

Laura Pettigrew

Laura Pettigrew, an Associate Composer of CMC, member of CLC, SOCAN, IWBC and ACWC has received notable commissions and awards for her works and accomplishments. Her works have been premiered and performed in Canada, United States and Europe by renowned soloists and ensembles including but not limited to Borealis Brass, MASSIVE BRASS ATTACK, directed by infamous tubist Sérgio Carolino, Portugal, RSO Chamber Ensemble, Meineinger Trio, Contrasts Trio Dr. Karen Gustafson, Shawn (Grocott) and the Wolf (Wolfgang Meyer-Johanning), Foothills Brass, Dr. Corey Hamm and Nicole Ge Li. In 2013 her short film "The Sky Came Down" which she produced and wrote the film score garnered Two International Awards, Best Overall Production – Reel Rave International Film Festival; Award of Merit – Best Shorts Competition and nominee at Golden Sheaf Awards.

such that I left a dream 我留下的一個夢

such that I left a dream explores a blissful, yet sometimes disturbing impression left behind by a dream-like state.

在夢裡彷彿是另一個世界，會飛翔也會潛行，不變的是仍然有黑暗也有光明。似乎折騰了很久，然而夢醒了就記不清了。

Daniel Marshall

Daniel Marshall is a composer from Calgary, Alberta. He completed a BMus in composition at the University of Calgary and an MMus in composition from the University of British Columbia. Recently, Daniel has engaged in collaborative projects such as musical direction and sound design for the Vancouver United Players' 2013 adaptation of Euripides' *Hecuba* and the setting of poetry by Vancouver-based Elaine Woo, the latter of which has been awarded a festival prize by the Boston Metro Opera in their 2013 International Composer's Competition. Daniel hopes to develop a focus on collaborative and interdisciplinary endeavours.

Play 奏

Play is a multimovement work exploring the performative gestures of the erhu and piano and their roles in the ensemble. Both instruments contain strings which physically vibrate to produce sound, but they are interacted with in very different ways by the performers. This work blurs the lines between motions such as hammering, plucking, and bowing, allowing the performers to engage in or emulate these physical ideas on their respective instruments. This convergence of performative gestures speaks to the convergence of cultures present in the ensemble; the work is intended to display the blending capabilities of the instruments in this multicultural ensemble.

嘗試一些音樂的可能性，四個樂章“交織”、“撥彈”、“運弓”、“延伸”分別展示了二胡和鋼琴的技巧運用和相互合作。

Alyssa Aska

Alyssa is a diverse composer who writes both acoustic and electroacoustic works, although she primarily focuses on works that combine live instruments with realtime electronic processing. Alyssa has also participated in music technology education research projects and sensorbased instrument design, and has given presentations on this research in North America and Europe. Her current path focuses on gesture in performance and its relation to sound production. Alyssa received her B.Sc. in Music Technology from the University of Oregon, where