

Artistic Directors



Chan Ka Nin

Chan Ka Nin is a distinguished Canadian composer whose extensive repertoire draws on both East and West in its aesthetic outlook. Professor of Theory and Composition at the University of Toronto, he has written in most musical genres and received many national and international prizes, including two JUNO awards, the Jean A. Chalmers Award, the Béla Bartók International Composers' Competition in Hungary, and the Barlow International Competition in the United States. In 2001 he won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Musical for his opera *Iron Road*, written with librettist Mark Brownell, depicting the nineteenth century construction of the Canadian National Railway by Chinese migrant labourers.

Characteristically luminous in texture and exotic in instrumental colours, Prof. Chan's music has been described by critics as "sensuous," "haunting" and "intricate." The composer often draws his inspiration directly from his personal experiences: for example, the birth of one of his daughters, the death of his father, his spiritual quests, or his connection to nature and concern for the environment. Many prominent ensembles and soloists have performed his music, including the Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Calgary Philharmonic, Nova Scotia Symphony, Esprit Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Amici Ensemble, Gryphon Trio, Miró Quartet, St. Lawrence Quartet, Purcell Quartet, Amherst Saxophone Quartet, violist Rivka Golani, and oboist Lawrence Cherney. His substantial discography includes releases on the CBC, Centrediscs, ATMA, Analekta, Albany, and Summit labels, among others.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr. Chan holds twin undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and music from the University of British Columbia, where he studied composition with Jean Coulthard. He subsequently received Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Indiana University, where he studied with Bernhard Heiden.

Alice Ping Yee Ho 何冰頤 (composer, pianist)

(Photo by Bo Huang)

Alice Ho is a Hong Kong-born Canadian composer acclaimed for her "distinctly individual" style and "organic flow of imagination." She has written in many musical genres and received numerous national and international awards, including the 2016 Louis Applebaum Composers Award, 2014 Prince Edward Island Symphony Composers Competition, 2014 Kitchener Waterloo Symphony Friendship Orchestral Composition Competition, 2013 Dora Mavor Moore Award "Outstanding Original Opera" for her opera *Lesson of Da Ji*, 2013 Boston Metro Opera International Composition Competition, K.M. Hunter Artist Award, du Maurier Arts Ltd. Canadian Composers Competition, MACRO International Composition Competition, Luxembourg Sinfonietta International Composition Prize, and International League of Women Composers Competition.

Often featured at national and international new music festivals such as ISCM World Music Days, Ottawa Chamberfest, Denmark's CRUSH New Music Festival, Asian Music Week in Japan, etc.; her works have also been performed by many major ensembles including China National Symphony, Polish Radio Choir, Finnish Lapland Chamber Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, the Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Victoria, Kitchen Waterloo, and Windsor Symphonies, Amsterdam's Neuw Ensemble, Italy's Trivella Piano Duo, Penderecki String Quartet, Toronto's New Music Concerts, Continuum New Music, Torq, and Soundstreams.

A twice JUNO Award Nominee (2015 and 2018), she has an impressive discography released on the Centrediscs, Naxos, Marquis Classics, Blue Griffin, Electra, and Phoenix labels. She has four solo discs (Centrediscs/Naxos) devoted to music written for different genres: "Ming" for percussion, "Glistening Pianos" for two pianos, "The Lesson of Da Di" features her full length opera, and a new CD "The Mysterious Boot" for chamber music features flutist Susan Hoepfner, cellist Winona Zelenka, and pianist Lydia Wong. In June, 2019, she will be producing her fifth solo CD of her children's opera "The Monkiest King" with the Canadian Children's Opera Company at the Glenn Gould Studio for Centrediscs/Naxos labels.



She is a noted classical pianist and an active advocate of contemporary music. She had performed in many new music festivals, including a solo piano recital recorded by CBC Radio 2 in which she premiered Tan Dun's solo piano work "Traces II."

Her 2019 activity highlights including a new work "Silk Road Fantasy" commissioned by Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra to be premiered on Oct. 19, 2019; performances of her choral work "Begin" at the ISCM World Music Days in Tallinn in May and at the Luminato Festival in June.

Alice Ho's website: www.alicepingyeeho.com

Artists, Photographers and Performers



Vania Chan (Lyric Coloratura Soprano)

Lyric coloratura soprano Vania Chan (M.M. - Manhattan School of Music, New York) made her Carnegie Hall debut in Weill Recital Hall, performing as a first prize winner in the Barry Alexander International Vocal Competition in New York.

Vania was a winner of the "City of Brandon Award" at the Eckhardt Gramatté Vocal Competition, for her interpretation of the commissioned cycle, Jocelyn Morlock's Involuntary Love Songs, which was broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Company.

She premiered the role of "The Light Moon" in the Dora Award Winning opera THE LESSON OF DA JI by composer Alice Ping Yee Ho and librettist Marjorie Chan, presented by Toronto Masque Theatre. Vania's "gently shimmering coloratura" can be heard on the CD recording of the same opera (Centre Discs, Naxos), singing the roles of "The Light Moon" and "Ming" the maid. The recording received a critic's choice review in Opera News, New York.

Vania recently performed as "Cunegonde" in CANDIDE with Toronto Operetta Theatre and in Claude Vivier's MUSIK FÜR DAS ENDE with Soundstreams, which received critical acclaim from the New York Times. She was also featured as the garlic breath woman in D'Italiano Bread's "romantic dinner" commercial.

Performance highlights include "Mabel" in THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE, "Princess Mi" in THE LAND OF SMILES (Toronto Operetta Theatre), "Madame Herz" in THE IMPRESARIO, the "goddess Diane" in HIPPOLYTE ET ARICIE (VOICEBOX: Opera in Concert), "the Ad Exec" in AIRLINE ICARUS (Soundstreams), the "story teller" in Alice Ho's VENOM OF LOVE (Little Pear Garden Collective) a leading role in Purcell's THE FAIRY QUEEN (Toronto Masque Theatre) and "Gretel" in HANSEL AND GRETEL (Opera Manhattan Repertory Theater).

Other operatic roles include "Zerbinetta" (Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos), "Cleopatra" (Handel's Giulio Cesare), "Olympia" (Offenbach's Les Contes d'Hoffmann), Susanna (Mozart's Le Nozze di Figaro), "Marie" (Donizetti's La Fille du Régiment), "Lucia" (Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor), "Nanetta" (Verdi's Falstaff), "Armida" (Handel's Rinaldo), "Morgana" (Handel's Alcina) and "Anne Trulove" (Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress).

She made her European debut through the "Elysium Between Two Continents: International Summer Academy", in Bernried, Germany.

She has sung with several performance companies in New York, including Gateway Classical Music Society, the New York Opera Forum, Opus Opera NY, and Opera Manhattan Repertory Theatre Inc. She also sang with the Berkshire Bach Society in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

In Canada, Vania has performed with Toronto Operetta Theatre, Toronto Masque Theatre, Soundstreams, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre, TrypTych, Halifax Summer Opera Festival, and Opera by Request. She was the soprano soloist with Chorus Hamilton, the York University Concert Choir, Tryptych Chamber Choir Ensemble, and Donway Covenant United Church Choir. Vania has been featured in young artist recitals with the Barrie Colours of Music Festival, and with Visual and Performing Arts Newmarket.

While maintaining a busy performance career, she is currently completing her PhD at York University.

Upcoming: The Little Match Girl Passion (Soundstreams), and the role of Zerlina in Mozart's DON GIOVANNI (Westben and Music Niagara).

www.vaniachan.com

Chinese Music Troupe

Yi Wang, an acclaimed Chinese multi wind instrumentalist, who graduated from the ancient capital city Xi'an Conservatory of Music in China. Yi studied under several well known Sheng mentors and professors in China. In 2004, he became the principle Sheng player at the Hebei National Orchestra. In 2005, he was invited as a Sheng instructor at the Hebei Academy of Arts. Yi is an unique multi wind player who works in both China and Canada, plays numbers of Chinese wind instruments such as Sheng, Bamboo flute, Xiao, Xun, Cucurbit flute, and Ba wu. He has worked with some major chinese ensembles and to participate in various of performances in Toronto. Recently, Yi founded a Chinese Arts and Culture association in Canada , to collaborate with the star musicians in China to organize and direct the tour performance and workshops in Canada. This ongoing Cultural exchange event has appeared in Toronto, Prince Edward Island, Edmonton, University of Regina, University of Saskatchewan, and York University.



Di Zhang is an emerging yangqin virtuoso in Toronto. She graduated with an honor award from Faculty of music, National University in Beijing in 2012. Di has won the top award for dulcimer performance at the first Singapore 2010 International Community Art Festival national instrument contest, the 2005 “Hua Yi Award” for the best musical performance in Macao. Since lives in Toronto, Di continued to study music ethnomusicology at York University, in 2018, she completed her master degree and held her solo concert successfully at York University Tribute Communities Recital Hall. As an accomplished Yangqin soloist, Di involved in various concert projects, including the event at the Toronto Music Garden, the music faculty of Wilfred Laurier University and University of Toronto, also collaborating with the Canadian Sinfonietta Orchestra to perform at the Glenn Gould Studio. She has worked and toured with several Chinese ensembles in Canada, eventually performed in Portugal with North American Chinese orchestra. Currently pursuing her PhD's degree at York University, taking part in York's Global Improvisation Lab and World Music Ensemble. Her improvisation was featured in an album The Path to Contemporary as well as two concerts that presented live transcontinental improvisation and performance.



Wen Zhao is an internationally acclaimed pipa virtuoso, a sensitive and lyrical performer. Born in Beijing, she began to learn the Pipa at the age of seven, eventually winning the first prize at the Beijing Youth National Instrument Competition in 1985. After completing the China Conservatory of Music study with the renowned pipa master Wang Fan Di, Wen continued her musical career in England, performing and teaching Chinese music throughout the U.K. Wen lives in Toronto since 1997, and teaches pipa at York University. Wen has appeared at major ethnic music festivals worldwide, touring in Asia, Europe, Canada, and the U.S, including Vancouver Early Music Festival, Montreal Baroque festival, Ottawa International Chamber Festival, Edinburgh Festival, U.K, and the concert tour in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong international Music Festivals in 2007 and 2010. Beyond her work as a soloist, Wen has collaborated with some world's top Western ensembles, including Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Consort and the Grand Union orchestra, UK . She is especially honoured to be one of the featured musicians for the CBC award-winning documentary film The Four Seasons Mosaic. The Toronto Star described her as “a virtuoso player who displayed her dexterity and percussive skills on the Pipa.”



Kozakura Japanese Dance School

Sensui Kozakura was born in Japan and has been dancing for 40 years under Sumako Kozakura who founded the Kozakura Japanese Dance School in 1964.

Sensui Kozakura now resides in Toronto, and is the Headmaster of Toronto chapter of Kozakura Japanese Dance School in Markham. She teaches traditional dance to popular songs. She also choreographs the new traditional Japanese dance.



Sumamiwa Kozakura was born in Toronto, Canada and has been dancing over 30 years under Kozakura Japanese Dance School in Toronto. She travels to Japan to perform at many of the Kozakura's dance recitals.

Indian Classical Dance Troupe



Karthiha Parthiban is an Indian classical dance lecturer, choreographer and artistic director of Abhinayakshetra Fine Arts Canada. Karthiha graduated from Kalakshetra Foundation, the world-renowned institute in Chennai, India. She is a multifaceted artist with exceptional choreographic skill and musicality. In pursuit of exploring the intricacies of Bharatanatyam, she has established an identity in the discipline in countries like India as well as abroad.

When Karthiha migrated to Canada in 2015, she established and is leading her dance schools in three locations in Greater Toronto Area (GTA). In addition to running her dance schools, she has collaborated with mainstream and multicultural communities in the GTA. Her recent productions successfully have been staged at Flato Markham Theater, Chinese Cultural Center, John W. H. Bassett Theatre and Harbourfront Centre. Amongst these, she also conducts dance workshop in many countries, is an instructor for multicultural seniors center's dance healing therapy programs and is a continuing valued member for the Dance Examiners Boards. Her research on "108 dance movements (Karnas) depicted in sculptures in the Thanjavur Big Temple" was acknowledged and honored at the World Tamil Conference, India in 2010. She is currently doing her PhD in classical dance at Tamil University in Tanjore, India.

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Thakshikah Sritharan is a classically trained Bharathantaym dancer and has been performing since the tender age of 5. She completed her arangetram (dance graduation) in August of 2011.

She has performed on many stages, showcasing this art form to audience of all ages and ethnic backgrounds. To list a few she has performed for the Liberal party of Canada, an event taken place at the headquarters of Toronto's police department, inauguration for the city of Vaughan, TEDXUTSC and many more reputable events. She has performed on many grand stages such as Sony centre for the performing arts, Scotiabank arena, Rogers Centre and more. She gets many opportunities to perform with many celebrities around the world, including "slumdog millionaire" national fame AR Rahman. To increase her passion for this divine art, she continues to practice and choreograph her own classical routines and spreading this pure art form to others.



Myuran Thananjeyan began his tutelage in vocal music at the age of 6 under Dr. Alakananda Nath. At the age of 10, he began to receive advanced training from eminent vocalist Smt. Raji Gopalakrishnan. Under her guidance, Myuran successfully completed his debut concert in 2010. Myuran has participated in several cultural and musical programs throughout the GTA and North America. Additionally, he has also been learning mridangam under Sri Gowrishankar Balachandran (completing his mridangam arangetram in 2013), violin under Sri A. Jayadevan Nair, and ghatam under Sri Thripunithura N. Radhakrishnan. As a hobby, Myuran occasionally dabbles in playback and fusion singing, for which he has recorded several songs for local and international albums. Academically, Myuran is currently majoring in Chemical Engineering, and obtaining certification in Occupational Health and Safety at Ryerson University.



Keethan has been learning mridangam since the age of 7, under the tutelage of his guru Shri Gowrishanker Balachandran and has also received advanced training from Mridangam Maestro Thiruvarur Bhaktavatsalam. Keethan has completed his mridangam arangetram in July 2018 and he has also received the title of "Mridanga Kala Jothi" from Varasithy Vinaayagar Temple in October 2018. He is currently in 2nd year at York University studying information technology.

Priyah Ratnakumar is currently a student at Veenalayam Temple of Music, directed by Srimathy Jeyanthe Ratnakumar.

She has completed her Veena arangetram in June 2017 and is receiving advanced training from "Kalaimamani" Rajhesh Vaidhya.

This year Priyah has been blessed to be apart of Dhimahi, a grand dance festival conceived and crafted by the legend Shri Madurai R. Muralidaran where she was conferred the title "Yazhisai Chudaroli". Priyah has also had the great fortune of performing at the prestigious Chennaiyil Thiruvaiyaru festival this past Margazhi season. Apart from music, she is currently a student at York University studying political science.



Photographers-Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto



Stephen Siu, Hon FYMCAPC; Hon FCCPST, is the advisor and past Chair of the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto. He is not a professional photographer, but photography has accompanied him in all of his career endeavours, as a journalist with the United Press International, an editor with *Reader's Digest* and other publications, and someone who steers public relations, advertising and fundraising campaigns across Canada. He has chaired, adjudicated and organized many photographic exhibitions, and was one of the founders of the Chinese YMCA Photographic Club in Hong Kong.

To him, photography is more than the comprehension of the beauty bestowed upon us, it is an exploration of the meaning of our existence. "Through the camera lens, you unfold stories, you see the world and people's real faces..." he says.

Tam Kam Chiu, GMPSA (Grand Master of the Photographic Society of America)

He has been: The President of the Photographic Society of Hong Kong (PSHK), Liaison Officer of FIAP in Hong Kong

He is now: Honorary Advisor of the Canadian Chinese Photographic Society of Toronto, Proficiency Chairman of the Canadian Chinese Photographic Society of Toronto.

Awards: Fellow of The Photographic Society of Hong Kong (FPSHK), Honorary Fellow of The Photographic Society of Hong Kong (Hon. FPSHK), Honorary Fellow of the Chinese Canadian Photographic Society of Toronto. (Hon. FCCPS)

Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (ARPS), International Federation of Photographic Art's Excellency Service Award (ESFIAP), Hon.FtGM by Belgard Photographic Federation.

In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 was awarded the World Top Ten Photographer diplomas by the PSA (Photographic Society of America)

In 2015 and 2016, Tam was rated at the Top Exhibitors Box by the PSA (Photographic Society of America) 2018 was awarded GMPSA (Grand Master PSA) honour by the PSA (Photographic Society of America)

