

CHINA NOW MUSIC FESTIVAL

CHINA AND BEETHOVEN



BEETHOVEN MADE IN CHINA

Sunday, December 13, 2020

7:30pm

China Now Music Festival Livestream

Jindong Cai

Artistic Director, China Now Music Festival

Shenyang
bass-baritone

Wu Man
Pipa

Youtube Symphony
Orchestra
Tan Dun, conductor

Julie Smith Phillips
harp

Konstantinos Valianatos
piano

Xue Miao
ruan

Daniella Travaglione
child singer

Qi Yiduo
piano

The Orchestra Now
Andrés Rivas, conductor

Shanghai Symphony
Orchestra
Yu Long, conductor

PROGRAM

COMMENTARY

Jindong Cai, *Artistic Director, China Now Music Festival*

Shenyang, *bass-baritone*

TAN DUN (B. 1957)

Internet Symphony No. 1, “Eroica”

I. Allegretto

II. Dolce Molto

III. Allegro

IV. Allegro Vivace

You Tube Symphony Orchestra

Tan Dun, conductor

LI SHUTONG (1880-1942)

orch. arr. Samuel Mutter

乞命 “Compassion”

众生 “All Living Creatures”

-- 学堂乐歌 (“School Songs”)

Shenyang, bass-baritone

Konstantinos Valianatos, piano

The Orchestra Now (Festival Ensemble)

Andrés Rivas, conductor

Daniella Travaglione, child singer

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

arr. Wu Man

Sonatine for mandolin and fortepiano in C major, WoO 43a (arr. for pipa and harp)

Wu Man, pipa

Julie Smith Phillips, harp

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

**Andante & Variations for mandolin and
fortepiano in D Major, WoO 44b (arr. for
ruan and piano)**

Xue Miao, ruan

Qi Yiduo, piano

JULIAN YU (B. 1957)

**Variations and Fugue on a Theme of
Beethoven (Homage to Beethoven) for
Orchestra**

Shanghai Symphony Orchestra

Yu Long, conductor

PROGRAM NOTES

INTERNET SYMPHONY NO. 1, “EROICA” (2008)

Tan Dun (b. 1957)

In 2008 Google and YouTube commissioned Tan Dun to write Internet Symphony ‘Eroica’ as a part of the YouTube Symphony Orchestra project. Musicians from around the world were invited to audition by submitting videos of their interpretations of Internet Symphony to be judged by members of leading international orchestras. There were more than 3,000 auditions from more than 70 countries. The project culminated in a performance at Carnegie Hall on April 15, 2009. The performance was webcast and is available on YouTube. More than 22 million people from 200 countries on six continents have experienced Tan Dun’s feeling of a global music community, encapsulated in Internet Symphony.

众生 “ALL LIVING CREATURES” AND 乞命 “COMPASSION”

Li Shutong (1880-1942), orch. arr. Samuel Mutter

Music scholar Li Shutong was the first person to introduce Beethoven to the Chinese people in the early 20th Century. Later in his life, he devoted himself to Chinese Buddhism, and wrote these two poems to teach children not to harm animals. He then set the poems to melodies from Beethoven sonatas. They are part of a series of songs for children set to simple melodies, referred to as 学堂乐歌 ('School Songs').

《乞命》

吾不忍其觳觫
無罪而就死地
普勸諸仁者
同發慈悲意

COMPASSION

*I can't bear that the animal is trembling with fear
It does nothing wrong but soon will be killed
I sincerely advise all merciful people in the world
Please have compassion on animals and let them go*

《眾生》

是亦眾生
與我體同
應起悲心
憐彼昏蒙
普勸世人
放生戒殺
不食其肉
乃謂愛物

ALL LIVING CREATURES

*Animals are all living beings
They have feelings and emotions just like us
We should have a good heart and compassion
Pity them in their ignorance and lack of wisdom
I hope that all the people in the world
would be able to set animals free and stop killing them
Do not eat them
This is called compassion for all life*

SONATINE, ANDANTE & VARIATIONS, FOR MANDOLIN AND PIANO (1797)

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), arr. Wu Man, Xu Yang

Beethoven's wrote several pieces for mandolin and harpsichord early in his life, but they are not widely known and seldom performed. The works are numbered in the WoO system, meaning 'works without opus number.' Pipa virtuoso Wu Man prepared her arrangement of the Sonatine for pipa and harp especially for the China Now Music Festival, adding a stylistic improvisation in the middle section of the piece. The Andante & Variations were adapted for ruan and piano especially for the China Now Music Festival by Professor Xu Yang of the Central Conservatory of Music, one of the leading ruan players and educators in China.

VARIATIONS AND FUGUE ON A THEME OF BEETHOVEN (HOMAGE TO BEETHOVEN) FOR ORCHESTRA

Julian Yu (b. 1957)

This piece was commissioned by the China Philharmonic Orchestra for performance on 25 May 2019, conducted by Yu Long, to celebrate the Orchestra's 19th anniversary. The only other item on the program was Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, so it was necessary to write a piece which would fit in with this momentous work. A daunting task! My solution was to take Beethoven's 32 Variations for Piano and embellish them using techniques, and sometimes melodies, from Chinese folk music.

As everyone knows, Chinese folk musicians use embellishment as a means of creating new pieces, so it is not surprising that this work does not sound like Beethoven at all. Although vestiges of Beethoven's original variations can still be heard in places, a whole new piece emerges full of surprise and humor. One can hear recurring snippets of the Chinese folk song *Jiaofu Tune* (脚夫调); the dramatic cry of fate from Beethoven's Fifth Symphony; and a pentatonicised version of the rhythmic 10-bar melody from one of the original Beethoven variations.

As the piece reaches its climax, a fugue emerges as a grand finale. The piece concludes with a deferential recurrence of Beethoven's main theme, this time in its unembellished form, to honor this great composer.

BIOGRAPHIES

Conductor **JINDONG CAI** is artistic director of the China Now Music Festival, director of the US-China Music Institute, professor of music and arts at Bard College, and associate conductor of The Orchestra Now. Over his 30-year career in the United States, Cai has established himself as an active and dynamic conductor, scholar of Western classical music in China, and leading advocate of music from across Asia. Cai founded the US-China Music Institute at the Bard Conservatory in 2017 and created the Institute's the annual China Now Music Festival in the following year. In its first two seasons, China Now presented new works by some of the most important Chinese composers of our time, with concerts performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, Bard's Fisher Center, and Stanford University.

QI YIDUO is a first-year graduate student of Piano at China's prestigious Central Conservatory of Music. He studies with Professor Wei Danwen, and previously studied under Professor Zhang Jin and Professor Wang Chun. In recent years he has won high honors at the "Little Admiralty" Piano Competition, the Beijing International Music Festival piano competition, the 5th Shenzhen Open and the 12th Central Conservatory of Music "College Cup" Piano Concerto Competition, among others. He has performed at the National Center for the Performing Arts, Zhongshan Music Hall, Shenzhen Concert Hall, Taipei Normal University, Beijing People's University, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Central Conservatory of Music and many others. He has also played piano concertos with conductors Chen Lin and Zhu Qiyuan.

JULIE SMITH PHILLIPS, appointed Principal Harpist of the San Diego Symphony Orchestra in 2007, is one of the most prominent American harpists today, performing as both an orchestral musician and concert artist. Internationally recognized for her performing style and diverse repertoire, Ms. Phillips' playing has been described as "precise" and "luminous" (American Record Guide), "musically polished" (Hartford Courant) with "spectacular results" (San Diego Story). Equally experienced as a chamber and orchestral musician, Ms. Phillips collaborates with renowned musicians across the country. Prior to her post in San Diego, she served as Acting Principal Harpist of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (2006-07) and Principal Harpist for the New World Symphony Orchestra (2004-06).

As the winner of the BBC Cardiff Singer of the World in 2007, **SHENYANG** was immediately propelled into the spotlight with an array of international engagements including debuts at the Metropolitan Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Bayerische Staatsoper, Opernhaus Zürich and Washington National Opera. A decade on, this Chinese Bass-baritone has established himself as one of the finest voices of his generation, has amassed an expansive repertoire for both the opera and concert stages, and enjoys enduring relationships with a wide range of today's pre-eminent conductors. Read more at shenyang-music.com.

The world-renowned artist and UNESCO Global Goodwill Ambassador **TAN DUN**, has made an indelible mark on the world's music scene with a creative repertoire that spans the boundaries of classical music, multimedia performance, and Eastern and Western traditions. A winner of today's most prestigious honors including the Grammy Award,

Oscar/Academy Award, Grawemeyer Award, Bach Prize, Shostakovich Award, and most recently Italy's Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement, Tan Dun's music has been played throughout the world by leading orchestras, opera houses, international festivals, and on radio and television. Most recently, Tan Dun was named as Dean of the Bard College Conservatory of Music. As dean, Tan Dun will further demonstrate music's extraordinary ability to transform lives and guide the Conservatory in fulfilling its mission of understanding music's connection to history, art, culture, and society. Read Tan Dun's full biography at tandun.com.

DANIELLA TRAVAGLIONE, age 13, of Rhinebeck, New York, is a student of Bard College Conservatory of Music Preparatory Division. Daniella has been studying piano since age six and voice since age seven. She has consistently been selected by judges of Bard Preparatory Division for the biennial Honors Recitals for both piano and voice. In 2019, Daniella was selected to perform as the child vocal soloist at the world premiere of *Men of Iron and Golden Spikes* by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Zhou Long at Carnegie Hall. She was a second-prize winner of American Protege Competition for piano four-hands and performed in the winners recital at Carnegie Hall. In addition, Daniella has performed numerous times at Steinway Hall. As a member of the Bard Preparatory Division Chorus, she participated in the Mahler's Symphony No. 3 concert at Fisher Center. Daniella is home-schooled. Her favorite subjects are History and English. During her free time, Daniella enjoys reading, cooking, tennis, golfing and watching old-time movies.

Recognized as the world's premier pipa virtuoso, **WU MAN** is a soloist, educator and composer who gives her lute-like instrument—which has a history of more than 2,000 years in China—a new role in both traditional and contemporary music. Wu Man has premiered hundreds of new works for the pipa, while spearheading multimedia projects to both preserve and create global awareness of China's ancient musical traditions. Projects she has initiated have resulted in the pipa finding a place in new solo and quartet works, concertos, opera, chamber, electronic, and jazz music as well as in theater productions, film, dance, and collaborations with visual artists. Read more at wumanpipa.org.

Young ruan performer **XUE MIAO** began her musical education studying piano at the age of four years old. A great admirer of Chinese traditional culture, she has specialized in ruan

performance since the age of nine, studying with Zhang Xinhua and Xu Yang. Xue has won the first prize in major competitions such as the Wenhua Prize, the Youth National Instrumental Music Competition, the fourth International Chinese Instrumental Music Competition in Hong Kong, and the Singapore International Huale Competition, among others. Xue has held eight individual solo concerts and published five CD and DVD albums. She is currently the youngest ruan performer playing with professional orchestras in China, including the Chinese Philharmonic Orchestra, the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and more.

Born in Beijing in 1957, composer **JULIAN YU** studied at China's Central Conservatory of Music, where he later taught, and at the Tokyo College of Music with Joji Yuasa and Shin-ichiro Ikebe. Later he was a Composition Fellow at Tanglewood, where he studied with Hans Werner Henze and Oliver Knussen and was highly praised by Leonard Bernstein. He migrated to Australia in 1985. Important commissions include Ensemble InterContemporain, the 2000 BBC Proms, and the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. In 2011 he was Theme Composer at the Suntory Hall Summer Festival in Tokyo. Awards for composition include the 1988 Koussevitzky Tanglewood Composition Prize; the inaugural and consecutive Paul Lowin Orchestral Prizes of 1991 and 1994; and the Albert H. Maggs Composition Awards of 1988 and 2015. His work, mostly for orchestra, is frequently performed in Australia and internationally. A freelance composer, he is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Melbourne.

Hailed by The New York Times as “the most powerful figure in China's classical music scene,” the conductor and impresario **YU LONG** has devoted his illustrious career to steering China's growing connection to classical music while familiarizing international audiences with the country's most eminent musicians and composers. From north to south, Maestro Yu currently holds the top position in China's three most prominent orchestras—Artistic Director of the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing and Music Director of both the Shanghai and Guangzhou symphony orchestras—as well as Principal Guest Conductor of the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He is co-director of Shanghai's Music in the Summer Air festival and Chair of the Artistic Committee of the Beijing Music Festival, an annual autumn event that he founded in 1998 and served as Artistic Director until 2018. He is currently Vice President of the China Musicians Association and Chairman of its recently established League of China Orchestras.

YOUTUBE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Michael Tilson Thomas, *Music Director*

Tan Dun, *Conductor*

The **YOUTUBE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** (www.YouTube.com/Symphony) is the world's first orchestra selected entirely through auditions online. The project is a collaboration between YouTube, the London Symphony Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Grammy Award -winning conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, Academy Award -winning and Olympics composer Tan Dun, world-renowned pianist Lang Lang, and many other classical musicians and leading institutions.

THE ORCHESTRA NOW (FESTIVAL ENSEMBLE)

Leon Botstein, *Music Director*

Andrés Rivas, *Conductor*

THE ORCHESTRA NOW (TŌN) is a group of vibrant young musicians from across the globe who are making orchestral music relevant to 21st-century audiences by sharing their unique personal insights in a welcoming environment. Hand-picked from the world's leading conservatories—including The Juilliard School, Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Royal Conservatory of Brussels, and the Curtis Institute of Music—the members of TŌN are enlightening curious minds by giving on-stage introductions and demonstrations, writing concert notes from the musicians' perspective, and having one-on-one discussions with patrons during intermissions. Conductor, educator, and music historian Leon Botstein founded TŌN in 2015 as a graduate program at Bard College, where he is also president. The orchestra's home base is the Frank Gehry-designed Fisher Center at Bard, where they perform multiple concerts each season and take part in the annual Bard Music Festival. Learn more at theorchestranow.org.

SHANGHAI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Yu Long, *Artistic Director*

SHANGHAI SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA is one of the earliest and best-known orchestral ensembles of its kind in Asia. Originally known as the Shanghai Public Band, it was renamed the Shanghai Municipal Orchestra in 1922. Notably under the baton of the Italian conductor Mario Paci, the orchestra promoted Western music and trained Chinese young talents very early on in China, and was the first to introduce the first Chinese orchestral music to the public. With a long history of 141 years, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra is synonymous with the history of China's symphonic music development. Spanning three different centuries, the Shanghai Symphony has now embraced a new era. The orchestra created a series of musical products, including: the Concert Season, the Shanghai New Year's Concert, the Spring Festival Concert, and Music in the Summer Air. These performances have not only fostered cultural exchange but have also built a bridge between people, orchestras and nations. Read more at shsymphony.com

CHINA NOW MUSIC FESTIVAL

Jindong Cai, *Artistic Director*

Kathryn Wright, *General Manager*

Hsiao-Fang Lin, *Producer*

Weiber Consulting, *public relations and marketing*

Liminal Entertainment Technologies, *editing and broadcast*

Zhou Long, *China Now opening music*

Nuwanda LLC, *videography, Olin Hall*

Ian Striedter, *audio engineering, Olin Hall*

William Bradbury, *video and audio engineering for Wu Man*

The China Now Music Festival is an annual series of events produced by the US-China Music Institute of the Bard College Conservatory of Music. Dedicated to promoting an understanding and appreciation of classical music from contemporary China, each year's festival explores a singular theme. The inaugural festival, *Facing the Past, Looking to the Future: Chinese Composers in the 21st Century*, took place in 2018. The following year, the festival presented *China and America: Unity in Music*, featuring the world

US-CHINA MUSIC INSTITUTE

Jindong Cai, *Director*

Kathryn Wright, *Managing Director*

Hsiao-Fang Lin, *Director of Music Programming*

The US-China Music Institute was founded at the Bard College Conservatory of Music in 2017 by conductor and classical music scholar Jindong Cai and Robert Martin, a cellist, philosopher, and the founding director of the Bard Conservatory. The Institute's mission is to promote the study, performance, and appreciation of music from contemporary China, and to support musical exchange between the United States and China. It is the most comprehensive institution for Chinese music in the West, with unprecedented degree programs and research and performance opportunities for students, artists, composers, and scholars around the world. barduschinamusic.org

BARD COLLEGE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

Tan Dun, *Dean*

Frank Corliss, *Director*

Marka Gustavsson, *Associate Director*

Bard College Conservatory of Music expands Bard's spirit of innovation in arts and education. The Conservatory, which opened in 2005, offers a five-year, double-degree program at the undergraduate level and, at the graduate level, programs in vocal arts and conducting. At the graduate level, the Conservatory also offers an Advanced Performance Studies Program and a two-year Postgraduate Collaborative Piano Fellowship. bard.edu/conservatory

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to Shenyang, Tan Dun, Wu Man, Xu Yang and Julian Yu for their contributions to tonight's program.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FESTIVAL PARTNERS

Bard College Conservatory of Music
Central Conservatory of Music
Shanghai Symphony Orchestra
The Orchestra Now (TÖN)

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