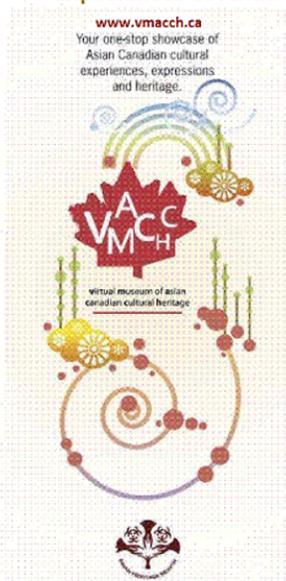


ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL 2022

... showcasing cultural expressions and
experiences of Asian Canadians



Please visit

<http://www.asian-heritage-month.org>

And <http://www.vmacch.ca> for details



Canadian Foundation
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ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH FESTIVAL 2022

PRESENTED BY

CANADIAN FOUNDATION FOR ASIAN CULTURE (CENTRAL ONTARIO) INC.

2022 ANNUAL ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH CONCERT: "RESILIENCE IN OUR TIME"

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Mr. Justin Poy, Honourary Patron, Asian Heritage Month-CFACI

Message from the Artistic Directors Professor Chan Ka Nin and Alice Ping Yee Ho:

"The Annual Asian Heritage Month Concert will be on "Resilience in our time". Welcome back to a live concert of Asian Heritage Month after an intermission for two years due to the pandemic. Citizens of the world had shown resilience to these trying times, and just as we are about to recover, we learn of resilience of the Ukrainian people to the war. Music from four Asian countries: Philippines, Korean, India and China, are featured together with Music from Ukraine as a gesture of community compassion and support."

THURSDAY MAY 26 | 7:00 PM EDT

Innis Town Hall, Innis College Town Hall, University of Toronto

2 Sussex Avenue (St. George Stn) | Map: <http://townhall.innis.utoronto.ca/contact/>

AS PER UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MASK GUIDELINES, ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST
WEAR A FACE MASK.

"Masks will continue to be required in indoor spaces where physical distancing cannot be maintained. The University continues to recommend the use of medical-grade masks where possible."

FREE ADMISSION: Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/annual-asian-heritage-month-concert-resilience-in-our-time-tickets-337578545517>

For more information, please visit <http://www.vmacch.ca>
or <http://www.asian-heritage-month.org>

Program

Co-Artistic Directors: Chan Ka Nin, Alice Ping Yee Ho

Program:

Masters of Ceremony: Vania Chan and Derek Kwan

I. Musiscus Bortnianskii (Ukrainian Choir)

1. A Ukrainian church hymn

2. Grant Me My Freedom

Music: Chan Ka Nin; Text: Mark Brownell

Myron Maksymiw, conductor ; Alice Ping Yee Ho, piano

II. Haneum (Korean Music ensemble)

1. Forest (숲) by 황병기/ by Byungki Hwang

2. First Step by Roa Lee

Roa Lee, gayageum; Jay Yoo, guitar

III. Colors of Spring, or 'Holi' (Music from India)

Shirshendu Mukherjee , tenor; Ravi Naimpally, tabla; Vibhas Vatve, harmonium

IV. Duet

1. Arirang (Korean Folk Song)

2. Dahil Sayo (Filipino song) by Miguel Velarde Jr.

Vania Chan, soprano; Derek Kwan, tenor; Alice Ho, piano

V. Chinese Music by Spire (Chinese music ensemble)

1. Golden Snake Dance Folk Song from Jiangsu

2. Yiruma Meets Chopin. Arr. Victor Tat

3. Red Tango. Arr. Wendy Zhou 周晚濛

Wendy Zhou 周晚濛 (琵琶) Pipa; Bobby Ho, 何松聲, Chinese Drums; Perry Ho 何柏蔚 (小提琴) Violin; Ken Yang 杨晓赓 (鋼琴) Piano/Keyboard

Artistic Directors

Chan Ka Nin, Artistic Director, Composer



Chan was born in Hong Kong and moved with his family to Vancouver in 1965. At the University of British Columbia, he studied composition with Jean Coulthard at UBC, Bernhard Heiden at Indiana University where he eventually obtained his Master's and Doctoral degrees in music. Since 1982, he has been teaching theory and composition at the University of Toronto.

Twice winner of Juno Awards for Best Classical Composition, composer CHAN Ka Nin's works have been performed by ensembles and artists from Canada, United States and around the world. In 2001, his opera *Iron Road*, written with librettist Mark Brownell, won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding New Musical. In 2002, his chamber work *Par-çi, par-la*, which was recorded by Ensemble Contemporain du Montréal, has won the Juno Award for Best classical composition. In 2017, Sinfonia Toronto's commission work *My Most Beautiful, Wonderful, Terrific, Amazing, Fantastic, Magnificent Homeland* was recorded by the Toronto Symphony on their CD *Canada Mosaic SESQUIES*. In 2018, the *Dragon's Tale* was awarded the Kathleen McMorro Award, which recognizes the presentation of contemporary classical music by Ontario composers. His new work, *Pikä Talvi*, (long winter) was premiered by percussionist Antti Ohenoja and a string quartet in Helsinki in January 2022. This June, his *Pandemic Diary* will be premiered by Elite Artists Trio in Taiwan. His *Harp Concerto* will be premiered in Toronto this November, and performance again by the City Chamber Orchestra from Hong Kong in 2023. (Photo by Bo Huang)

Alice Ping Yee Ho, Artistic Director, Composer



Alice Ho is an acclaimed Hong Kong-born Canadian composer. She has received numerous national and international awards including the 2019 Johanna Metcalf Performing Arts Prize, Louis Applebaum Composers Award, K.M. Hunter Artist Award, top prizes at 2014 Prince Edward Island Symphony Composers Competition and 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, and Luxembourg Sinfonietta International Composition Prize.

Her works have been performed by many major ensembles including the Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Victoria, Hamilton, and Windsor Symphonies; the Finnish Lapland Chamber Orchestra, China National Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, Polish Radio Choir, Estonia’s Ellerhein Girls Choir, Luxembourg Sinfonietta, and Amsterdam’s Nieuw Ensemble.

A twice JUNO Award Nominee (2015 and 2018), she has an impressive discography released on the Centrediscs, Naxos, Marquis Classics, Blue Griffin, Electra, Leaf Music, and Phoenix labels. She has six solo discs devoted to music written for different genres, including two recent releases of her children’s opera “The Monkiest King” with the Canadian Children’s Opera Company on Centrediscs, and “Venom of Love” (electronic ballet music) on Leaf Music.

She is currently commissioned by City Opera Vancouver on a new opera Chinatown with librettist Madeleine Thien opening September 2022 at the Vancouver Playhouse.

A noted classical pianist, 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”.

Alice Ho’s website: <https://www.alicepyho.com/>

(Photo by Bo Huang)

The Performers

Myron Maksymiw



Myron Maksymiw grew up in England and Italy. He completed his musical education at University of Toronto.

In 1981 Myron Maksymiw founded Musicus Bortnianskii, North America's most highly acclaimed Ukrainian-Canadian chamber choir fostering the works of Ukrainian and East European composers of music for chorus and orchestra. The repertoire of Musicus Bortnianskii embraces music from early Renaissance period through to that of contemporary composers. Baroque Partesni Konzerty and works by Dmytro Bortniansky (1751-1925) and his contemporaries, Maksym Berezowsky (1745 -1777) and Artem Vedel (1767-1808) form the core of the choirs' programme.

Celebrating 1,000 years of Christianity in Ukraine, in 1988 Myron Maksymiw was invited to be the conductor of the Ukrainian Millennium Choir in Rome. In 1991, at the invitation of the Revutskyj State Choir in Kyiv, Mr. Maksymiw went to Ukraine. During his five year stay, in addition to being invited to work with the DUMKA State Choir (Kyiv) he worked with different University and Academy of Arts and Sciences choirs in Kyiv and Lviv leading them in many concerts and choral workshops. In the city of Lviv he held the position of Choir Director of St. George's Cathedral, and was conductor in residence with Trembita State Choir (Lviv). With them he toured Ukraine, Poland, Belgium and Germany.

Myron Maksymiw has performed in Toronto and its vicinity, and in the USA. He has been involved in CBC National Radio and Television productions and BBC Radio 3. He has served on juries for the Ontario Arts Council. In 1988 Myron Maksymiw was awarded the Fellowship of Stong College (York University). He is noted as an artist of Ukraine in the publication Artists of Ukraine, Kyiv, 1992. He has two headings in the Encyclopedia of Ukraine (University of Toronto Press) and several mentions in the NTSha publications (Lviv 2004 and 2005).

Vania Chan



Vania Lizbeth Chan is a versatile artist, active in the fields of vocal performance and academia/education (M.M., Manhattan School of Music, PhD, York University). She enjoys collaborating with fellow artists to create new and exciting projects that inspire and educate a wide ranging audience. She sings in a variety of styles, having performed opera, operetta, musical theatre, oratorio, sacred, jazz, and popular music.

A lyric coloratura soprano, Vania's voice has been described as "gently shimmering" (Opera News, NY) and "lovely and agile" (@KarasReviews). She has been praised for her fine acting skills, acclaimed as a "first-rate comedienne" (Halifax Chronicle Herald). She made her Carnegie Hall debut in Weill Recital Hall, claiming first prize in the Barry Alexander International Competition, NY, performing "Glitter and be Gay" from Bernstein's *Candide*.

Other performance highlights include: singing at the Governor General Performing Arts Awards TV Special (2021), Premiering the role of the *Light Moon* in "The Lesson of Da Ji" (Ho/Chan) with Toronto Masque Theatre, the role of Mabel in "The Pirates of Penzance (Gilbert/Sullivan) with Toronto Operetta Theatre, Soprano soloist in "The Little Match Girl Passion (Lange) and "I Think We are Angles" (Rolfe) with Soundstreams. She recently returned from a European tour with Soundstreams performing the repertoire of Canadian composer Claude Vivier with a stellar cast of musicians.

Upcoming Performances include: Premiering the role of Wenli in "Chinatown" (Ho/Thien) with City Opera Vancouver, performing the role of Eurydice "Orpheus in the Underworld" with Toronto Operetta Theatre, and singing with the Toronto Consort in their "Praetorius Christmas Vespers" Concert.

www.vaniachan.com

Derek Kwan 關顯揚



DEREK KWAN

Derek Kwan is a theatre performer/creator working at the intersection of various forms including opera, clown, and puppetry. His performing career has taken him across Canada and around the globe. Recently, he digitally hosted the WeeFestival; as a Therapeutic Clown, he participates in MABELLEarts' food security program, MABELLEpantry; and performed in Factory Theatre's audio drama series, *You Can't Get There From Here*, Vol 1 & 2. Performance highlights include: *The Tempest* (Citadel Theatre); *The Cave* (LUMINATO 2019); *Blood Weddings* (Modern Times/Aluna); *Mr. Shi and His Lover I* (Tarragon/NAC), *Claudia* (Theatre Ignite, Taipei); *The Curious Voyage* (Talk is Free Theatre/London, England). He is the Artistic Director of Common Boots Theatre, and the Interim Co-Executive Director for Red Nose Remedy.

Roa Lee



Roa (HyunYoung) Lee is a Gayageum musician from Korea. She began playing when she was 7 years old and received formal training at a high school and university for traditional performing arts. Interested in collaboration and incorporating the Gayageum with various music genres, this desire led her to study music in a multi-cultural city, Toronto. Since college, she has continued to perform as well as to compose and arrange music. Her music is based on traditional Korean music and also integrates different elements from world music. A passionate explorer of fusion and new music, she has performed and collaborated with Emerging Young Artists, the Aga Khan Museum, Small World Music, Four Season Center, Harbourfront Music Garden, Korean Traditional Music Association of Canada, and many municipal orchestras, among other organizations.

Jay Yoo



Jay Yoo is a guitarist, composer, and arranger originally from South Korea, and now based and active in Toronto. He graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance, receiving the 'Noreen and Phil Nimmons Entrance Scholarship'.

Having studied with a number of renowned musicians such as Geoff Young, Mike Murley, and David Occhipinti, he is a versatile musician, active in a number of projects that explore multiple musical genres ranging from jazz, funk, rock and R&B to musical theater. Some of the projects Jay is involved in includes his own group, 'Jay Yoo Group' as well as 'Dennis Kwok Electric Quartet', a traditional Korean fusion band 'Haneum' and award winning band 'Snaggle'. In addition, he works with his long-time collaborator, vocalist Jenna Marie Pinard, in her groups such as 'Jenna Marie sings R&B' and 'Jenna Marie Jazz Group'.

Jay has released a collaborative duo album with the aforementioned Jenna Marie Pinard entitled, 'Here, Now' in November of 2019. And will be releasing another collaborative instrumental duo jazz album, 'Dual Unity' with Mark Kazakevich in May of 2022.

Shirshendu Mukherjee - Indian Classical Vocalist



Born in a family of music connoisseurs, Shirshendu Mukherjee was inducted into music at the tender age of 3 under the tutelage of Smt.Chandana Chakrabarty. Later on, he joined ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata as a Scholar and received extensive training from Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty, the doyen of Patiala Gharana.

Shirshendu started performing at the age of 14 by rendering at the Annual Classical Music Programme organized by Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata when he shared the dais with the giants of Indian Classical Music viz. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, Pandit Birju Maharaj, Ustad Zakir Hussain. He has been a regular performer in various major conferences in India as well as in Europe and North America.

With the mission and vision of spreading Indian Classical Vocal Music through performance, education and research, he has co-founded the Riyaz Institute of Hindustani Music in Toronto, Canada.

Ravi Naimpally



Ravi Naimpally began his study of tabla in Mumbai with his uncle Pandit Nikhil Ghosh. For the past twenty years Ravi has been fortunate to receive guidance from the legendary Pandit Anindo Chatterjee. He is a member of the faculty of music at York University and Humber College and is co-founder of the Riyaz Institute of Hindustani Music.

Vibhas Vatve



Vibhas is very fortunate to be carrying the legacy of Harmonium Maestro Pt. Tulsidasji Borkar. Both of his gurus, Siddesh Bicholkar (Mumbai) and Dr. Kedar Naphade (NJ) are disciples of Borkar Guruji and are among the top artists in the Classical music field.

Vibhas started learning from Siddheshji at the age of 11 during his trips to Mumbai in Summer vacations and eventually continued learning from Siddheshji's senior Gurubandhu Dr Kedar Naphade. He has been learning techniques of harmonium from Kedarji for 9 years.

Vibhas has participated in many musical competitions and has won prizes in USA and India. Some notable competitions are- Pt. Paluskar Award music competition Mumbai, Swarganga music competition Atlanta.

Vibhas has given many solo Harmonium performances in Canada, USA and India at some renowned classical music events. These include- Small World Music Centre Toronto, Kabir music Centre Montreal, Wakad Music Circle Pune, Naadbrahma Bandra Mumbai, Vishwa Marathi Sammelan Toronto, Rag Rang concert New Jersey, MSSO Toronto.

SPIRE

Established in 2010, Spire was formed with the vision of creating fusion between Eastern and Western genres of music. Spire uses Eastern and Western musical instruments to perform a variety of music ranging from traditional to modern pop music.

Over the past three years, Spire has grown to become an extremely well-received group in Toronto. Since its establishment, Spire has been featured as guest artists with the Toronto Chinese Orchestra's annual concerts, performed live on Canadian National Media Network – WOWtv, and has been featured in several of Toronto's largest summer events, including "Night it Up!", "T&T Supermarket's Waterfront Night Market", "Richmond Hill Summer Carnival", and at the "Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) International Stage".

Spire has received high acclaim from audiences for its unique musical style and arrangement of music. They have recently reached a milestone to holding their first ever concert, "Reborn", to sold-out audiences at the Toronto Chinese Modern Art Academy, and a standing ovation performance at the University of Toronto Chinese New Year Concert in support of UNICEF Canada.

Most recently, Spire has also been featured as one of the top 6 finalists at a large North America Asian Pacific Showcase – 'Kollaboration Toronto' and has been featured at a number of corporate and charity events including TD Bank, Sick Kids Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, ROM's Friday Night Live!, and many more!

Spire continues to musically inspire its audience bridging the East with the West.

Spire Members:

Wendy Zhou

Wendy started learning the pipa at the age of five. She competed in the Youth Pipa Competition in Suzhou, China, and received great praise. After immigrating to Canada in 2001, she began her studies with renowned pipa soloist, Ms. Gui-Lian Liu. Shortly after, Wendy joined the B.C. Chinese Orchestra in 2002 and held the position of Section Leader. During this time, she won multiple awards in the Kiwanis Music Festival. In 2005, she was also awarded the S.K. Lee Scholarship for Ethnic Instruments and won third place in the Kiwanis Gala Concert. Wendy subsequently completed the performance level in the Chinese Conservatory of Music Exam for pipa in 2007 and was highly praised for her performing abilities and sense of music. In 2010, she co-established Spire and began to explore the boundary of Eastern and Western music through rearranging and composing multiple pieces for the group. She has been involved in many contemporary Chinese performances such as The Monkiest King opera with Canadian Children's Opera Company (2018-2019); Sound of Dragon music Festival in Vancouver 2018 in Vancouver. She is also a part of Toronto Chinese Orchestra Chamber Players which hosts many local workshops and performances throughout the year.

Perry Ho



Perry began studying the violin privately at the age of 15 and within 3 years passed the Royal Conservatory of Music Grade 10 Violin Performance Examinations with honours. During his studies, Perry was actively involved in a number of music ensembles ranging from chamber strings to symphony orchestras and had the opportunity to perform in Vienna and Poland with the Toronto District Youth Orchestra as a first violinist in 2006. Perry also served as concertmaster of the North Toronto Collegiate Symphony Orchestra where they placed first in their division in Kiwanis and competed in nationals. Since 2008, Perry has been performing as a first violinist with the Overseas Chinese Youth Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Chuen Tam. In 2012, he was appointed the position of Principal Second Violin, and is currently performing under the direction of Samantha Chang.

Ken Yang

Ken is a concert pianist and media executive with a background in law and tech. He has appeared with Lang Lang and Yuja Wang and has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Yellow River Concerto with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the North American Premiere of Liu Shikun's piano concerto with the Toronto Chinese Orchestra. Ken is a Grand Prize winner at the national Canadian Music Competitions and was the keyboardist for Spire Fusion, an east-meets-west band comprising members of the Toronto Chinese Orchestra.

He has worked at a top Bay St. law firm, commercialized engineering IP at the UofT and in Silicon Valley, co-founded a web3 project in LA, and conducted SSHRC-funded research in social cognition at the UofT. He is an advocate for universal basic income and currently serves on the executive team of UBI Works, a national non-profit with a network of 100,000+ Canadians and producing content seen over 2 million times a month. He has a JD/MBA and undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Music from the University of Toronto.

Bobby Ho



Bobby Ho was first introduced to the drum kit in 2002, and eventually became obsessed with drumming when he began forming his own bands and participating in extra-curricular music ensembles. Since then he decided to supplement his musical horizon by composing and arranging music for percussion ensembles, orchestras, choirs, symphonic bands, and his personal rock bands. Although he has been attending Chinese music concerts since he was a child, Bobby did not become actively involved in Chinese music until 2012. That year he joined the Apex Martial Arts Academy in Toronto to learn wushu and sanshou, not knowing that this is where his journey as a BChinese percussionist would begin. The martial arts school had a drumming ensemble called the Apex Drumming Team, a group of youth that specialized in lion dance drumming.

After witnessing the ferocity of the drumming team through shared community performances with the Toronto Chinese Orchestra (TCO), Bobby was invited to join the TCO not as a performer, but as a composer. He debuted his first composition for Chinese drums, *Legend of Jade Dragon*, in 2013 with the TCO percussion ensemble. Since then, he has been performing with the TCO and has been appointed the section principal for their percussion section. He has arranged collaborations between the TCO and the Apex

Drumming Team to perform his second composition, *Wild Game*, and renowned Chinese percussion songs, such as *Flying Dragon Leaping Tiger* and *Emperor Qin Musters Army*. Bobby was invited to Taiwan as a soloist to collaborate with the Taoyuan Chinese Orchestra in the 30th Taoyuan Chinese Music Festival in the summer of 2018, and has also collaborated with the Edmonton Chinese Orchestra, Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra, and *Xian-Se Gong* Chinese Orchestra.

Despite his love for music, Bobby earned his master's degree in Professional Education, specializing in Applied Behaviour Analysis. In addition to teaching and performing drums part-time, Bobby is the founder and Clinical Director of Apex Educational Consulting Services Inc., which offers behaviour therapy for individuals diagnosed with autism and various developmental delays.
