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TEA HOUSE CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA NIGHTINGALE IN DISTANCE

港樂混合小組 HK Phil Mixed Ensemble 何博文 英語旁述 Jerome Hoberman NARRATOR

文化合作伙伴 Cultural Partner



30 MAY 2022

MON 8PM

西九文化區戲曲中心茶館劇場 Tea House Theatre, Xiqu Centre, West Kowloon Cultural District

紀志豆 音樂總監 laap van Zweden Music Di

westkowloon.hk

茶館室樂系列:香港管弦樂團 遙聽夜鶯

韋雅樂,長號

王亮,小提琴

鮑爾菲,低音大提琴

龐樂思,敲擊

何博文,英語旁述

TEA HOUSE CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES: HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA **NIGHTINGALE IN DISTANCE**

P. 2	華夏斯 EDGARI	D VARÈSE	4'
	《密度 21.5》 Density 21.5		
	施家蓮,長笛	Linda Stuckey, flute	
P. 3	武滿徹 TŌRU TAKEMITSU		12'
	《雨樹》Rain Tree (1981)		
	龐樂思,敲擊 白亞斯,敲擊 胡淑徽,敲擊	James Boznos, percussion Aziz D. Barnard Luce, percussion Sophia Woo Shuk-fai, percussion	
P. 4	譚盾 TAN DUN		10'
	《遙》In Distance (1987)		
	施家蓮,短笛 龐樂思,敲擊 譚懷理,豎琴	Linda Stuckey, piccolo James Boznos, percussion Amy Tam, harp	
P. 6	龐樂思 OZNO		10'
	《圍棋》 (世界首演)(2022	2)	
	Weichi (Go) (World Premiere) (2022)		
	施家蓮,短笛	Linda Stuckey, piccolo	
	史家翰,單簧管 龐樂思,敲擊	John Schertle, clarinet James Boznos, percussion	
	白亞斯,敲擊	Aziz D. Barnard Luce, percussion	
	胡淑徽,敲擊 譚懷理,豎琴	Sophia Woo Shuk-fai, percussion Amy Tam, harp	
	鮑爾菲,電貝斯	Philip Powell, electirc bass	
P. 7	盧凡迪 THEO LOEVENDIE		29'
	《夜鶯》,為旁述與七種樂器而作 (1974)		
	The Nightingale, fo	r Narrator and Seven Instruments (1974)	
	史家翰,單簧管 李浩山,巴松管 莫思卓,小號	John Schertle, clarinet Vance Lee, bassoon Christopher Moyse, trumpet	

Jarod Vermette, trombone

Philip Powell, double bass

James Boznos, percussion

Jerome Hoberman, narrator

Wang Liang, violin

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P. 8

王亮小提琴

工元 小提琴	Wang Liang Violin
鮑爾菲 低音大提琴/電貝斯	Philip Powell Double bass/Electric bass
施家蓮 長笛/短笛	Linda Stuckey Flute/Piccolo
史家翰 單簧管	John Schertle Clarinet
李浩山 巴松管	Vance Lee Bassoon
莫思卓小號	Christopher Moyse Trumpet
韋雅樂 長號	Jarod Vermette Trombone
龐樂思 敲擊	James Boznos Percussion
白亞斯 敲擊	Aziz D. Barnard Luce Percussion
胡淑徽 敲擊	Sophia Woo Shuk-fai Percussion
譚懷理 🗟 🕸	Amy Tam Harp
何博文 英語旁述	Jerome Hoberman Narrator
影像設計及執行	Visual Design and Execution
許穎晞、吳敏超	Cheryl Hui Wing-hei & Ng Man-chiu
書法指導	Calligraphy supervisor
陳靄凝	Chan Oi-ying
書法家	Calligrapher
張素嘉	Cat Cheung

Wang Liang Violin



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演奏期間請保持安靜 Please keep noise to a minimum during the performance



請留待整首樂曲完結後才報以掌聲鼓勵 Please reserve your applause until the end of the entire work



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1883-1965 EDGARD VARÈSE Density 21.5



Varése (Wikipedia Commons)

Platinum is heavier than gold: in its pure form, the element has a density of 21.45 grams per cubic centimetre. The title *Density* ⁽¹⁾ *21.5*, one of Edgard Varèse's best-known and most influential compositions, thus has a scientific ring, though it actually rounds the number up a bit. In fact, Varèse indulges a bit more poetic license: the reference is to the new platinum flute introduced in 1935 at a restaurant demonstration by the musician Georges Barrère, which was made up of only 90% platinum and 10% iridium.

Still, Barrère's new flute marked an ostentatiously costly "upgrade" to one of the most ancient instruments known to humanity, which has been made of such materials as bird bones, bamboo, wood, and even glass. And Varèse's composition, the first to be written specifically for this platinum flute, is a landmark of the modern flute repertoire.

A native of Paris, Varèse had moved back to the US when he composed *Density 21.5* in 1936; he radically reworked the piece in 1946. Although it is brief in duration and consists of a single solo line for the flute player, *Density 21.5* has inspired countless analyses thanks to the density (if you will) of possible interpretations it has invited – in terms of both musicological analysis and actual performance, which requires a virtuosic command of the instrument. Varèse builds structures from small musical cells, like the first three notes heard at the outset, that have been compared to sonic sculptures. Continually varying every parameter – melody (and implied harmonies), rhythm, volume, sound colour, register – Varèse transforms this heavy metal into a modern magic flute.

Programme note by Thomas May

1930-1996 TORU TAKEMITSU Rain Tree (1981)

Tōru Takemitsu liked to refer to his music as a form of "collaboration" with nature. Nature metaphors referring to gardens, wind, and water recur frequently in his work, starting with the electronic *Water Music* from early in his career. *Rain Tree, Rain Spell, I Hear the Water Dreaming* and *Toward the Sea* are titles of compositions from the 1980s. These form part of a larger grouping of works known as the "waterscape" series.

They also explore a metaphorical motivic idea (E flat–E–A) which "spells" the word sea. (The pitch of E flat is conventionally transliterated as the "s" sound.) Takemitsu composed *Rain Tree* in 1981 for three percussionists. In addition to inspiration from nature, Takemitsu drew on literary sources. *Rain Tree* takes its title from the writings of the Japanese novelist Kenzaburō Ōe.

The "rain tree" – known in America as the "monkey pod tree" – is, according to \overline{O} e, "ingenious" since "its abundant foliage continues to let fall rain drops collected from last night's shower until well after the following midday." This Hawaiian rain tree serves, for \overline{O} e, as a metaphorical emblem of the universe. Takemitsu's score asks for three percussionists: one on vibraphone, the other two on marimbas. They also play crotales (small tuned discs), which suggest the gentle fall of rain. These introductory gestures have a ritualistic character, inviting us into a world of sounds Takemitsu cultivates like rare orchids. Sonorities float and linger in whispers, shiver and dance, as Takemitsu shapes a delicate conversation between sound and after-sound, motion and stillness. The result becomes as much about a meditative mindfulness as musically documented impressions from nature.

Programme note by Thomas May

Takemistu © Guy Vivien



b. 1957 TAN DUN In Distance (1987)

Tan Dun, who was born in 1957, at one point studied with both George Crumb and Toru Takemitsu at the Central Conservatory in Beijing. The Japanese composer found Tan Dun's music to be "as violent as a burst of human blood, yet full of grace, a voice of the soul," referring to its unique blend of influences. Indeed, even the opportunity to study music meant a radical change in the life of Tan Dun, who had been raised in the village of Changsha in Hunan and experienced the Cultural Revolution at a young age. He had to work for two years in the rice fields as part of an agricultural commune. Later, Tan Dun became among the first students to be allowed to attend to the Central Conservatory in Beijing when it reopened in 1977. It was there that he acquired his initial exposure to modern Western music. In 1986, Tan Dun took up graduate studies at Columbia University and resettled in New York, which remains his home base. A string of noteworthy triumphs - including his Academy Award-winning soundtrack for the Ang Lee film Crouching *Tiger, Hidden Dragon – made Tan Dun an acclaimed member* of the new wave of émigré Chinese composers at the end of the 20th century.

Like some of his peers in the new wave of émigré Chinese composers, Tan gathered a rich store of inspiration from his direct contact with ancient but enduring folk traditions. *In Distance* is an early work from 1987 documenting his state of mind shortly after he had arrived in New York City. The title reflects the new perspective he gained from this cultural change and how it caused the composer to question himself.

Scored for piccolo, harp and bass drum, the piece exploits what Tan Dun describes as the "wide distance between each of the instruments in register, timbre and dynamics." But in addition to this sonic distance, the distance between cultures is accentuated, because the three instruments are Western and yet, he writes,



the music they produce "is often very far from the way these instruments might usually sound. The piccolo is treated more like the Chinese bamboo flute, the harp is treated like the koto, and the bass drum is made to sound like Indian drums, played only with palms and fingers."

Tan Dun even explores a third layer of distance in the texture of the music, which, in his words, "is very open with lots of space," since he began in this piece to use moments when one or more of the instruments is not playing "as a kind of musical language." (Standard chamber music practice usually maximises the use of each instrument.) And a fourth kind of distance, which could also be termed a conflict at times, is that "between atonal writing and folk materials." The result, notes the composer, lists that "I began to see myself within the clarity of distance."

Programme note by Thomas May

Tan Dun © tandun.com



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b. 1969

OZNO Weichi (Go), op. 28 (WORLD PREMIERE) (2022)



The number of legal board positions in Go has been calculated to be greater than the number of atoms in the observable universe. Go is one of the oldest board games continuously played to the present day. Several ideas from this abstract strategy game for two players influenced the ideas behind my composition.

OZNO © Cheung Wai-lok

The notes in this piece are organised and related to each other by the use of a pitch square which resembles the Go Board. The stones when looked at with rhythmic eyes resemble counterpoint and stable rhythmic pulses of 16th notes or strings of different length rhythms. The two players are represented by the game between live and midi instruments. I also used the principle of surrounding stones (notes) on all orthogonally adjacent points to capture the note.

In addition to those game related ideas, there is a deeper context to this music. It's the last piece (hopefully) I wrote during the pandemic and is an expression of our collective wish to "go", to move on from the past confinements of travel and giving concerts, and go forward.

My piece Social Distancing written at the beginning of the pandemic reflects the isolation and commonality of separation as performing musicians. *Weichi* is its opposite – a "band" rhythmising a joy to get out and explore. Re-exploring some of my favourite rock band's drummers over this period also led to my wish to have a vehicle for a drum set player to design another groove to the synthetic drum set on the mp3.

Programme note by OZNO

D. 1930 THEO LOEVENDIE

The Nightingale, for Narrator and Seven Instruments (1974)

Born in 1930, Theo Loevendie considers himself a "latecomer as a composer". Until the 1970s, he was known as a jazz saxophonist. *The Nightingale* (1974), is based on the well-known fairy tale by Hans Christian Anderson and is in a format reminiscent of Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, in which the spoken word is brought to life with musical imagery.

Loevendie © Rob Bogaerts / Anefo

The little gray nightingale sings so sweetly that tears are brought to the Emperor's eyes. His servant and the entire court are also delighted, but the Emperor gets a new and artificial nightingale, which can also sing beautifully. Can it replace the real nightingale?

Loevendie's jazz roots are evident in the piece, which involves a narrator and seven instrumentalists: clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone, violin, double bass and percussion. There is also a strong influence of the *avant-garde* style pervading the period. The music effectively evokes the story. Anderson's description of the creatures in the woods is beautifully represented by Loevendie's atonal utterances. The nightingale's singing is even sweeter, the groaning frogs are even croakier, and the royal court is even more lavish with the expressive music that marries the charming narrative perfectly. Almost as perfectly as the singing of the artificial nightingale.

Programme note by Dr Andrew Sutherland



WANG LIANG Violin

Second Associate Concertmaster of the HK Phil, Wang Liang recently played the solo in "The Red Violin: Movie in Concert", and was invited by The Chopin Society of Hong Kong - Joy of Music Festival to perform a Saint-Saëns' Violin Concerto and La Muse et le Poète.

PHILIP POWELL Double bass/Electric bass

Before joining the HK Phil in 2007, Philip was a member of the Canton (Ohio) and Haddonfield (New Jersey) Symphonies and performed with The Cleveland Orchestra. He is a graduate of The Cleveland Institute of Music where he studied with Scott Haigh and Maximilian Dimoff.

LINDA STUCKEY Flute/Piccolo

Piccolo and Flute player of the HK Phil since 1997, Linda has appeared as soloist with the HK Phil and Guangzhou Symphony orchestras, as well as in radio broadcasts, recordings and chamber music performances in Hong Kong and the region.

JOHN SCHERTLE Clarinet

Performing with the HK Phil for over two decades, Co-Principal Clarinettist John appears regularly as Guest Principal Clarinet with orchestras in the region. The National Arts Club Competition prize winner gives masterclasses in Asia and serves on the faculties of The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and Hong Kong Baptist University.

VANCE LEE Bassoon

Associate Principal Bassoon of the HK Phil, Vance joined the orchestra in 2000. Over the years he has performed many recitals, chamber music concerts and concertos.



CHRISTOPHER MOYSE Trumpet

Christopher was appointed to the trumpet section of the HK Phil in 2005. He has performed as guest principal trumpet with other orchestras including the Seoul Philharmonic, Singapore Symphony, Hallé Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic and Macau Orchestra













JAROD VERMETTE Trombone

Jarod joined the HK Phil as Principal Trombone in 1996. He has performed with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Hong Kong Sinfonietta, Kyushu Symphony, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra and The Hong Kong Bach Choir. He also performs as a member of the HK Phil Brass Quintet.

JAMES BOZNOS Percussion

Principal Timpanist of the HK Phil, James is active as a performer, composer and conductor. He uses the pen name OZNO as a composer. Recent highlights include the William Kraft Timpani Concertos, his own compositions Concerto for Timpani, Roto-Toms and Orchestra, and Concerto no. 2 for extended timpani, orchestra and mp3.

AZIZ D. BARNARD LUCE Percussion

Before joining the HK Phil as Principal Percussionist in 2011, Aziz was the Principal Percussionist of the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in Florida and has performed with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras.

SOPHIA WOO SHUK-FAI Percussion

Sophia is a percussionist with the HK Phil as well as a percussion instructor at The Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts, Hong Kong Baptist University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. She is involved with many chamber music and solo works.



AMY TAM Harp

Harpist Amy performs regularly with local orchestras including the HK Phil, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra and the Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra. She also gives harp instruction at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.



JEROME HOBERMAN Narrator

Jerome is familiar to audiences as a conductor, teacher, writer and radio personality. Music Director and Conductor of The Hong Kong Bach Choir since 1992, his previous music directorships include the Hong Kong Chamber Orchestra and the Nittany Valley Symphony, in Pennsylvania.

港樂即將上演的音樂會 HK PHIL UPCOMING CONCERTS

4 **JUN 2022**

SAT 8:30PM 網上直播於 Livestreaming on: hkphil.org/ composersscheme



7 **JUN 2022**

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Carmen HO Ka-man

貝蕾爾

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翁蒨懃

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-妙法蓮華經:第三,譬喻品》 《十豪的生活態度》 《芬布爾之冬》 《問天》 《覓》 Stone Dancer Waterscape The Illustration of Buddhist Sutra: Lotus Sutra, III. A Parable The Lifestyle of a Nouveau Riche Fimbulvetr

Bonnie YUNG Sin-kan Adrian WONG Chi-chun Wail Somewhere in Between

港樂@自由空間:譚盾|六月雪 HK Phil @ Freespace: Tan Dun | Snow in June

王婧 基治 夏利遜 讀盾 Jina WANG John CAGE HARRISON TAN Dun

法朗克

法朗克

FRANCK

BARTÓK

FRANCK

雷史碧基

雷史碧基

OZNO

RESPIGHI

RESPIGHI

龐樂思

巴托

《小石潭記》 《構造三》 小提琴敲擊樂協奏曲 《悲歌:六月雪》 Record of the Little Rock Pond Third Construction Concerto for Violin with Percussion Orchestra Elegy: Snow in June, for Cello & Percussion Quartet

法朗克200誕辰音樂會 César Franck at 200

《被詛咒的獵人》 中提琴協奏曲 D小調交響曲 Le Chasseur Maudit Viola Concerto Symphony in D minor

廖國敏 羅馬假期

Lio Kuokman | Roman Holiday

《羅馬之泉》 短笛協奏曲(世界首演) 《羅馬之松》 Fountains of Rome Piccolo Concerto (World Premiere) Pines of Rome

港樂 × 大館: 室樂音樂會系列—— 聽見巴赫 HK Phil × Tai Kwun: Chamber Music Series The Jov of Bach

巴赫	A 大調古鍵琴協奏曲,BWV 1055 C小調小提琴與雙簧管協奏曲,BWV 1060 G 大調三重奏鳴曲,BWV 1039 第三管弦組曲:G弦之歌,BWV 1068 B小調第二管弦組曲,BWV 1067	王 王 御 Wa Ka Ka
BACH	Harpsichord Concerto in A, BWV 1055 Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C minor, BWV 1060 Trio Sonata in G, BWV 1039 Orchestral Suite no. 3: Air on G String, BWV 1068 Orchestral Suite no. 2 in B minor, BWV 1067	So Jiai Me Wa Da

卡羅爾,指揮 貝蕾爾,客席作曲家/評論 陳啟揚,主持 Fayçal Karoui, conductor Charlotte Bray, guest composer/commentator Chan Kai-young, facilitator

王亮,小提琴 鲍力卓,大提琴 港樂敲擊樂小組 Wang Liang, violin Richard Bamping, cello **HK Phil Percussion Section**

凱默,指揮 凌顯祐,中提琴 Robert Reimer, conductor Andrew Ling, viola

廖國敏,指揮 施家蓮,短笛 Lio Kuokman, conductor Linda Stuckey, piccolo

王亮、桂麗及華嘉蓮,小提琴 熊谷佳織,中提琴 宋亞林,大提琴 姜馨來,低音大提琴 史德琳,長笛 譽博,雙箬管 裕森,古鍵琴 'ang Liang, Gui Li & atrina Rafferty, violins aori Wilson, viola ong Yalin, cello ang Xinlai, double bass legan Sterling, flute ang Yu-Po, oboe avid Chung, harpsichord

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