

YUAN-CHEN LI

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Biography

List of work / performance history

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Yuan-Chen Li (b.1980, Taiwan), Composer

Li first arrived on the contemporary music scene in Taiwan with her very personal use of instrumentation and style in her chamber music piece *Zang* (the funeral) in 2000. In 2003, the expression and orchestration of her orchestral work *Awakening* won the prize at the Asian Music Festival 2003 in Tokyo from the Asian



Composers' League, and was subsequently premiered by the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. In recent years, Li's music reflects her transformation of processes and concepts in Asian traditional arts, literature, and Buddhism into a compositional technique for solo, chamber, and orchestra of both Western and Chinese instruments. With her virtuosity in instrumentation and fluency in converging and synthesizing diverse cultural, musical and conceptual frameworks, her treatment of the space of the sonority, temporality, texture, and syntax have engaged musicians of different practices, critics, researchers, and worldwide listeners. Featuring her distinct artistry in different contexts, Li's work has been programmed in many concert series and festivals: Asian Composers' League (Tel-Aviv 2012, Tokyo 2003), 2012 Thailand International Composition Festival, IMANI Winds Chamber Music Festival (New York, 2012), Contempo series (University of Chicago, 2010-), Peace Cross-strait Orchestra Concert (China and Taiwan, 2009), Composers/Pianists concert series (New England, 2008-9), New Music New Haven (Yale, 2006-08), The Female Form: Women Composers (New York, 2008), Listening to the 21Century (Taipei, 2007), Soundbridges (Berlin, 2007), Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (Norfolk, 2007), Tune in to Taiwan 2003 (Taipei, 2003), New Ideal Dance Festival (Taipei, 2003), and Kuan-Du Musical Soiree (Taipei, 2001).

Committed to cultivate the combination of new music composition, interpretation, and community, she has frequently collaborated with Kong-Ling Liang, artistic director of Counterpoint Ensemble (Taiwan) and Paul Ching-Po Chiang, conductor of Moment Musicaux Philharmonia (Taiwan). Since 2011, Li has been

mentored by Maestro Cliff Colnot, from whom she has been introduced to professional notation, rehearsal techniques, and editorial work for orchestra, chamber music and songs.

Major honors and awards include an Artist Residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris (2010, Taipei Artist Village), grants from the National Culture and Arts Foundation of Taiwan, the Ezra Laderman Prize, the Rena Greenwalk Memorial Prize, First prize of Literature and Art Creation Award (Taiwan), the Chang-Hui Hsu Memorial Prize of Asian Composers League, Study Abroad Scholarship from the Education Minister (Taiwan), and Scholarship of Arts from Tzu Chi Foundation. Recent commissions are from the National Chiang Kai-Shek Cultural Center (Taiwan), the Philharmonic Moment Musicaux, and Counterpoint Ensemble.

Currently Li is a graduate student in the composition program at the University of Chicago where she has studied composition with Shulamit Ran, Marta Ptaszynska, Kotoka Suzuki, and orchestration with Cliff Colnot. Before her residence in Chicago, Li earned the Artist Diploma from the Yale University School of Music, studying composition with Martin Bresnick and Ezra Laderman. She also holds MA and BA degrees from Taipei University of the Arts having studied composition with Tsung-Hsien Yang and Chung-Kun Hung. Before entering college she studied composition and classical music for ten years with Ting-Lien Wu.

Orchestral Works

Hovering in the Air* (2011) Concerto for guzheng and string orchestra	
Duration: 15'	
Instrumentation	guzheng and string orchestra (44321 by stands)
Remarks	Commissioned by the Moment Musicaux Philharmonia Orchestra through the grant from the National Culture and Arts Foundation of Taiwan.
Premiere	September 27 th 2011, Taipei, Taiwan. Soochow University Arts Center. Moment Musicaux Philharmonia Orchestra – Youth Orchestra; Paul Ching-Po CHIANG, conductor; Jiuan-Reng YEH, soloist.
U.S. Premiere	November 17 th 2011, Muncie, Indiana. Ball State University, Sursa Hall. Ball State Symphony Orchestra; Bohuslav Rattay, conductor; Yu-Chen WANG, soloist.
Israel Premiere	October 18 th 2012, Beer Sheva, Israel. Asian Composers' League Conference and Festival 2012 in Israel Tel' Aviv, Doron Salomon conductor, The Israel Beer Sheva Sinfonietta.
Intermezzo: SHANG* (2011) For Symphonic Orchestra	
Duration: 18'20"	
Instrumentation	2(1,2 / pic).2.2(1,2 / bcl).2(1,2 / cb). – 2.2.2. – T.2P. – hp. – strgs.
Remarks	Commissioned by National Theater and Concert Hall of Taiwan.
Premiere	November 24 th , 2012, Taipei Taiwan, premiered by Taiwan National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Nicholas Milton.
Like A Dream, An Illusion (2007) For Orchestra	
Duration: 12'30"	
Instrumentation	3(1,2,3 / pic).3.3.3. – 4.3.3.1. – 4P – hp.cel.orgl. – strgs (65443 by stands), balcony: fl.hp.vln
Premiere	September 26 th 2007, Woolsey Hall, Yale University, New Haven, CT. New Music New Haven series. Yale Philharmonic Orchestra; Julian Pellicano, conductor.
Awakening (2003) For Orchestra	
Duration: 14'30"	
Instrumentation	4(1,2,3,pic).3(1,2,eh.).3(1,2,bcl).3(1,2,cb). – 4.3.3.1. – 4P. – 2hp. – strgs (87554 by stands).
Remarks	Senior thesis for the completion of the bachelor degree in composition at Taipei National University of the Arts. Awarded the Chang-Hui Hsu memorial prize from the Asian Composers league.
Premiere	September 9 th 2003, Bunkyo Hall, Tokyo, Japan. "Asian Composers League" Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra; Kazufumi YAMASHITA, conductor.
Performances	Cross-Straits Peace Tour from July to August 2009 in five cities in China (Beijing, Shanghai, and Shenzhen) and Taiwan (Taipei and Kaohsiung). Cross-Straits Peace Symphony Orchestra (members from major orchestras of China and Taiwan); Jia LU, conductor.

Chamber Works

Aldebaran* (2013) For sextet	
Duration: 6'30"	
Instrumentation	fl/picc, cl/bs cl, vln, vc, pno, perc.
Remarks	Written for sextet ensemble <i>eighth blackbird</i> . Review by Gerald Fisher (Chicago CLASSICAL REVIEW, May 11, 2013), link to the review .
Premiere	Premiered by ensemble <i>eighth blackbird</i> . May 10 th 2013, Chicago Illinois. Programmed for <i>contempo: Tomorrow's Music Today I</i> . University of Chicago, Fulton Hall, Shulamit Ran artistic director.
Fauna Republic* (2013) For mixed ensemble	
Duration: 8'	
Instrumentation	fl/pic, ob, cl/bs cl, bsn, hrn, 4 perc (total 9 musicians).
Premiere	Premiered on May 23 rd 2013 at DePaul Concert Hall, Chicago Illinois. Premiered by DePaul University Wind Ensemble, conducted by Cliff Colnot.
Obsidian* (2012) For cello and piano duet	
Duration: 8'	
Instrumentation	vc. & pno
Premiere	May 5 th 2012, Chicago Illinois. Programmed for New Music Ensemble, premiered by cellist Russell Rolen (Spektral Quartet) and pianist Daniel Schlosberg. University of Chicago, Fulton Hall, artistic director Barbara Schubert.
Ice Crackle Glaze* (2011) For mixed ensemble	
Duration: 8'	
Instrumentation	fl, vln, hp, vib, and pno.
Premiere	Finalist, selected to be performed on July 10 th 2012, Thailand International Composition Festival. Bangkok, Thailand. Narong Prangcharoen artistic director.
U.S. Premiere	November 10 th 2012, Chicago Illinois. Programmed for New Music Ensemble, University of Chicago, Fulton Hall, artistic director Barbara Schubert.
Motion 2010 (2010) For string quartet	
Duration: 11'30"	
Instrumentation	string quartet
Remarks	Commissioned by the Counterpoint Ensemble of Taiwan, Kong-Lin LIANG artistic director. Granted from National Culture and Arts Foundation of Taiwan. To be performed with the theater work "The Prince and the Pauper" 2012.
Premiere	November 19 th 2010, Kaohsiung Taiwan. November 26th and December 3 rd

	in Tainan and Taipei, Taiwan. Counterpoint Ensemble.
U.S. Premiere	May 18 th 2011, Fulton Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Tomorrow's Music Today series; Shulamit Ran, artistic director. Pacifica Quartet.
Ring (2008) For percussion quartet	
Duration: 11'	
Instrumentation	percussion quartet
Remarks	Commissioned by Forum Music
Premiere	November 12 th and 22 nd 2008, Taipei and Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Forum Music annual concert.
Butterfly* (2007, revised 2012) For piano quintet	
Duration: 8'	
Instrumentation	fl, ob, cl, bsn, and piano
Remarks	Resident Composer Commission from the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival (Yale School of Music Summer Festival), 2007. The revised score is edited by Cliff Colnot, 2012.
Premiere	August 7 th 2007, Music Shed Hall, Norfolk, CT. Members of the Norfolk Chamber Music workshop.
Performance	October 11 th 2007, Sprague Hall, Yale, New Haven, CT. Members of Yale School of Music.
Performance	August 5 th , 2012, IMANI Winds Chamber Music Festival. New York
Cats' Romp (2008) For guzheng and piano	
Duration: 9'30"	
Instrumentation	guzheng (also named zheng) and piano
Remarks	Commissioned by Hao-Yin HUANG Received the Rena Greenwalk Memorial prize from Yale University School of Music for the best dramatic writing, 2007.
Premiere	October 16th 2008, National Recital Hall, Taipei, Taiwan. Hao-Ying HUANG, guzheng; Zhao-Hui CHEN, piano.
U.S. Premiere	April 25 th 2009, Merkin Hall, New York, NY. "The Composers/Pianists Concert Series," curated by Douglas Fisk. Yuan-Chen LI, piano; Shih-Hua YEH, zheng. Review by William A. Verdone.
Performances	February 18 th 2012, Smith Recital Hall, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dolly HSU, piano; Yu-Chen WANG, guzheng.
The Morning Bell and the Evening Drum (2006) For percussion duet	
Duration: 17'	
Instrumentation	Perc. I: ancient cym, 2 sus cym, hit-hat, 4 cowbells, single tubular bell in A, tam-tam, many ping-pong balls Perc. II: 2 bongos, 2 congas, B.D., 18" timpano, many ping-pong balls
Remarks	Commissioned by Forum Music for its Tenth Anniversary Concert Series. Work involved theatrical elements, movements, and participation from the audience.
Premiere	July, 2006. Forum Music recital hall, Taipei Taiwan.
Performance	September 27 th , 2011, Forum Music Recital Hall, Taipei Taiwan. Members of Forum Music (Ya-Ting WANG and Ya-Hui LIANG).

Reminiscence* (2006; 2012 rev.)

For double bass and piano

Duration: 10'30"

Instrumentation	Double bass and piano
Remarks	Commissioned by Hsin-Chieh Tsai, revised in 2012 after the invitation by Rémi Magnan. The revised score is edited by Cliff Colnot, 2012.
Premiere	May 26 th , 2006. <i>Le Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris</i> . Hsin-Chieh Tsai double bass, Yuan-Chen Li piano.
Taiwan Premiere	July 5 th , 2013. Forum Music Recital Hall. Premiered by Hsin-Chieh Tsai double bass, Yu-Chieh Wang piano.

Adagio for Promenade (2005)

For mixed ensemble with specialization

Duration: 12'

Instrumentation	fl, hp, organ, and vln.
Remarks	Composed for the organ class presentation. The instruments are all on the balcony with special placement around the hall.
Premiere	January 6 th 2006, Concert Hall, Taipei National University of the Arts (TNUA), Taipei, Taiwan. Composer's Graduate Recital for master's degree. Members from TNUA.
European Premiere	September 13 th 2007, Balhaus Naunynstrasse, Berlin Germany. "Soundbridges – Taiwan heute, Asien-Pazifik-Wochen Berlin 2007," curated by Walter-Wolfgang Sparrer. Kammer Ensemble.

Intermezzo: Tsan (2005)

For mixed ensemble

Duration: 13'

Instrumentation	fl, ob, cl, vib, hp, pf, cel, vn, vla, kb and Chinese 7-string zither.
Remarks	Composed for the completion of the master's degree at TNUA. Awarded the first prize of 2005 Literature and Art Creation Award for chamber music under the Council of Cultural Affairs and Ministry of Education, Taiwan.
Premiere	January 6 th 2006, Concert Hall, Taipei University of the Arts, Taipei Taiwan. Composer's Graduate Recital for master's degree. Members from TNUA; Yuan-Chen LI, conductor.
Performance	October 26 th 2007, National Recital Hall, Taipei Taiwan. "Listening to the twenty-first century – works by emerging Taiwanese composers", Tzy-Sheng LEE, artistic director. Philharmonia Moments Musicaux Camelot Players; Paul Chin-Po CHIANG, conductor.

Chant for an Enjoyable Evening (2001)

For piano and cello

Duration: 7'

Instrumentation	pno & vc.
Premiere	2002, National Recital Hall, Taipei, Taiwan. Selected for "Tune into Taiwan 2002" series, sponsored by National Cultural Center of Taiwan.
Performance	In 2003 and later, National Experiment Theater, Taipei Taiwan. Work chosen for new choreograph by Century Contemporary Dance Company, sponsored by National Cultural Center of Taiwan.

Nicknamed Romanza* (2001, 2012 rev.) Theme and variation for string quartet	
Duration: 15' ca.	
Instrumentation	string quartet (vln. I, vln. II, vla, vc.)
Remarks	Previously read by the student musicians at TNUA in 2001. Revised in 2012, edited by Cliff Colnot.
Premiere	October 20 2012, National Recital Hall, Taipei Taiwan, premiered by Counterpoint Ensemble, Kunglin Liang, artistic director. Same year ion November 11,
The Funeral* (Tsang) (2000) For mixed ensemble	
Duration: 17'	
Instrumentation	ob, pipa, perc, and cb.
Premiere	May 2001, Dance Hall, TNUA, Taipei, Taiwan. Winning work to be performed in "Kuan Du Musical Soiree 2001 – The New Voices from Kuan Du Young Generation."
Performance	2003, National Recital Hall, Taipei Taiwan. Selected for "Tune into Taiwan 2003," sponsored by National Cultural Center of Taiwan.
Performance	November 23 th , 2012, Taipei, Taiwan. Tune into Taiwan 2012, by Chia Found Music Workshop.

Solo

Youth Yet Young (2012) For solo piano	
Duration: 6'	
Instrumentation	pno
Remarks	Dedicated to composer Tsung-Hsien Yang.
Premiere	March 7 th , 2013, Pianoforte Foundation, Chicago Illinois. Premiered by Italian pianist Ciro Longobardi.
Taiwan Premiere	June 4 th 2013, NCTU Theater, National ChiaoTung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan. Premiered by American pianist/Fulbright visiting scholar Lynn Ralye.
Spell* (2009, rev. 2011) For a) solo saxophone or b) clarinet	
Duration: 6'30"	
Instrumentation	alto saxophone, or clarinet
Remarks	Commissioned by Chun-Hao KU. Revision with editorial assistance by Cliff Colnot, 2011.
Premiere	a) July 2009, Bangkok Thailand. World Saxophone Congress. Chun-Hao KU. b) December 8 th 2012, New York NY. Kaufman Center Goodman House, by Patricia Billings, clarinet.
Performance	a) Additional performances by Chun-hao KU: June 2010, Paris, France. December 11th 2010, December 7 2011, Taipei, Taiwan.

U.S. premiere	a) April 9 th 2010. Fulton Hall, U of Chicago, Chicago IL. “ Soundquakes ,” concert curated by University of Chicago graduate students. Sean Patayanikorn, saxophone.
Migoh (2007) For solo piano	
Duration: 4'30"	
Instrumentation	pno
Remarks	The title means “The Song of Rice”. Commissioned by Chih-Long HU for a studio recording, titled “Formosa Caprices” released by Blue-Griffin in December 2007.
Premiere	(data missing)
Performance	March 6 th 2008, Sprague Hall, Yale, New Haven, CT. New Music New Haven series. Timothy Andres, piano.
Cat's Romp (2003) For solo guzheng	
Duration: 6'	
Instrumentation	guzheng
Remarks	Commissioned by Yi-Jie LAI. Graphic notation. The performance involves movement. Score published in the collection Works of Taiwanese Contemporary Zheng Music I (Taipei: China Found Workshop, 2004), Jui-an-Reng YEH, editor. Recorded and released by Forum Music Ensemble on Taiwan's Contemporary Music III, Musical Kaleidoscope (Taipei, 2006), Bor-Nien HSU, producer.
Premiere	December 2003, Forum Music recital hall, Taipei, Taiwan.
Performance	Numerous performances by at least 6 different musicians in recitals, conferences, and festivals in Taiwan, China, and USA.
Hy (2003) For solo piano	
Duration: 10'	
Instrumentation	pno
Remarks	Dedicated to the pianist Chien-Ying YANG. The work is also included in Chih-Long HU's album “Formosa Caprices” released by Blue-Griffin in December 2007.
Premiere	May 2003, Dance Hall, Taipei University of the Arts, Taipei Taiwan. Chien-Ying YANG.
Performance	Played by Chien-Ying YANG and Yu-Lin SHENG in numerous recitals in Taiwan and Canada.
Performance in the U.S.	U.S. premiere on February 4 th 2008 at Symphony Space New York, NY on the series “Concert Artists Guild – the Female Form: Women Composers.” Tanya Bannister, piano. Additional U.S. performances by Chih-Long HU, Yuan-Chen LI, and Jenny LIN.
The Source* (Yuan) (2001) For solo viola	
Duration: 8'	
Instrumentation	vla
Remarks	Also named “Yuan.”

	Dedicated to the violist Meng-Hsun Chung when he was earning his doctorate degree at New England Conservatory.
Premiere	December 2001, Muse Forum recital hall, Taipei, Taiwan. Meng-Hsun CHUNG.
Performance	Several additional performances by Meng-Hsun CHUNG.

For Single voice and Chorus

Three Pomes by Rabindranath Tagore (2007) For soprano, flute, piano, and cello	
Duration: 12'	
Instrumentation	sp, fl, pno, and vc.
Remarks	Texts from Rabindranath Tagore's poetry "Stray Bird." Language: English.. Awarded the Ezra Laderman prize for the best vocal writing, Yale Universtiy, 2007. Editing in progress.
Premiere	February 22 nd 2007. Sprague Hall, Yale, New Haven CT. New Music New Haven series. Members from Yale school of music, Adelaide Muir, soprano, Yuan-Chen LI, piano.
Taiwan Premiere	December 17 th 2010, Soochow University performing art center. Concert of contemporary vocal works series, curated by ISCM-Taiwan, Tzy-Sheng LEE, artistic director.

Three Pomes by Shyi Mu-Rong (2000)
 For soprano and piano

Duration: 10'	
Instrumentation	sp & pno.
Remarks	Texts from SHYI Mu-Rong's three poems. Language: Chinese (Mandarin)
Premiere	May 2003, composer's senior recital, Dance Hall, TNUA, Taipei, Taiwan.
Performance	(data missing)

Mong Huan Pao Ying (2008)
 For SATB chorus with or without 4 percussionists

Duration: 7'	
Instrumentation	4S4A4T4B, with or without four percussionists.
Remarks	Readings, final list. January 22 nd 2011. Taipei Chamber Singers; Yun-Hung CHEN, conductor.

Arrangements

Folksong - Homage to Formosa (2010) For mezzo and mixed ensemble
Duration: 30'

Instrumentation	fl, cl, 2p, hp, mezzo, vla, and vc (same instrumentation as Berio's <i>Folk Songs</i>).
Remarks	Includes 7 songs, adapted from folk songs and pop songs of four different dialects spoken in Taiwan. Commissioned by Philharmonia Moments Musicaux.
Premiere	March 4th 2010, National Concert Hall, Taipei Taiwan. "Spring Anointing!" Philharmonia Moments Musicaux - Camelot Players. Paul Chin-Po CHIANG, conductor; Jo-pei WENG, mezzo-soprano (6 songs).
Performance	September 2-6 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa. Arts Alive – International Festival Johannesburg. Philharmonia Moments Musicaux Camelot Players. Paul Chin-Po CHIANG, conductor; Ping LU, mezzo-soprano (6 songs).
Performance	December 29th 2010, National Concert Hall, Taipei, Taiwan. "2010 Year-end Musical Prayer" Philharmonia Moments Musicaux Camelot Players; Paul Chin-Po CHIANG, conductor; Jo-pei WENG, mezzo-soprano (7 songs).
Hakka Folk Song Cycle (2006) For folksong singers and Chinese orchestra	
Duration: ca. 42'	
Instrumentation	Various instrumentations such as 3di.2sheng.3sona. – 2yangqinq.2liuqin.2pipa.5ruan(1,2,alto,bass). – zheng.hp. – 3P – strgs.
Remarks	Arrangements of nine songs commissioned by National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan, curated by ethnomusicologist Dr. Rung-Shun WU. Televised. It drew wide acclaim. Continuing to develop into a forum entitled "The Dialogue between the Tradition and the Innovation" with regards to the novelty of the arrangement.
Premiere	April 13 th 2006, National Concert Hall, Taipei, Taiwan. "NCO Beauty Taiwan" series. National Chinese Orchestra.
Les Miserables (1998) For female chorus and chamber orchestra	
Duration: 16'	
Instrumentation	Female chorus and chamber orchestra
Remarks	Arrangement for high school chamber orchestra and female choir including a rearrangement of the orchestral accompaniment.
Premiere	May 1998, Tainan, Taiwan.
Performance	At least two or three subsequent performances.

Editorial Work

Ravel: Daphnis and Chloe, Suite No. 2 (2012) For woodwind quintet	
Duration: ca. 16'30"	
Instrumentation	fl/a.fl/picc, ob/e.h, a.cl, bsn, hn
Remarks	Commissioned by IMANI winds, arranged by Cliff Colnot.

Collaborative Work

Invisible and visible (2012-13) Score for modern dance	
Remarks	Work in progress. New collective work with Claudia Lavista exploring the use of the space in the new Logan art center at the University of Chicago.
ELEVEN (2009) Score for modern dance	
Duration: ca.15'	
Instrumentation	ob, pno, perc, and tape
Remarks	Commissioned by Susan Matheke for her choreography "Neptune" performed by student dancers. ACES, New Haven, CT. Music includes original score, speeches, adaptation of the Greek melody, pop song, rehearsed improvisation, and recording edited to tape.
Premiere	May 2009, Education Center of the Arts, New Haven CT.
Pas de Deux (2001) Score for drama reading	
Duration: ca. 6'	
Instrumentation	vln & vc.
Remarks	Miniatures for Hui-Chun CHEN's texts "Les Fenêtres," including a short prelude, interlude, and some incidental music. TNUA, department of theater, Taipei Taiwan.

* Works with editorial assistance by Cliff Colnot.

Updated June 2013

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