

International Rostrum of Composers 2012

RADIO TELEVISION HONG KONG (Radio 4)



Delegate: Mr. Hui Cheung Wai (Composer)

Presented works:

- (1) Hung Ming-kin Christopher
- (2) Wong Chun-wai
- (3) Yuen Wai-fung

Fluorescence
Nhemamusasa
Face

Contact Person: Raymond Chung (e-mail: chungth@rthk.hk)

Hung Ming-kin Christopher

Chris Hung studied composition with Prof. Chan Wing-wah and Prof. Victor Chan at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, he was awarded the Doctor of Music Degree in 2009.

Hung has attended composition lectures with Brian Ferneyhough, Liza Lim, Rebecca Saunders, Hans Thomalla and Tansy Davies etc.



Hung's music have been performed in United States, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong etc.

Hung collaborated with various international ensembles, such as Het Collectief (Belgium), Ensemble Modern (Germany), Nieuw Ensemble (Netherlands), Ensemble Modelo62 (Netherlands), Next Mushroom Promotion (Japan), Vox humana (Japan), Smith Quartet (UK), City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong, Hong Kong New Music Ensemble, The Composers Guild Ensemble (Hong Kong), International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE) (USA), Orchestra of Our Time (USA), National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra (NTSO) (Taiwan), Singapore Chinese Orchestra (Singapore), Poznan I. J. Paderewski Academy Orchestra (Poland), Korea Percussion Orchestra (Korea) and Stroma (New Zealand) etc.

Hung has been invited to participate several music festivals, such as Musicarama (2010, 11), Asian Composers' League (ACL) Music Festival (2009, 2010 & 2011), 45th Darmstadt Ferienkurse für neue Musik (2010), CoMA Composition Residency & Masterclass (2011) and Seoul Drum Festival (2011) etc.

Awarded pieces in recent years include *Borobudur* for large Chinese Orchestra (Finalist, 2011 Singapore International Competition for Chinese Orchestral Composition), *Sunrise* for Orchestra (Finalist, Hong Kong Sinfonietta Composition Competition), *Epilogue for a Tragedy* (Third Prize, Sun River New Composition Competition in Chendu, China), *Ever-changing Veins of Stone* (Second Prize (No First Prize Awarded), International Composers' Competition on the occasion of 90 Anniversary of the I. J. Paderewski Academy of Music), it was also featured in 2011 Taiwan ACL Music Festival, recorded and performed by "Orchestra of Our Time" in USA in 2011.

Dr. Hung is currently member of Hong Kong Composers' Guild and CASH.

Hung Ming-kin Chris
Fluorescence - Programme Notes

Fluorescence explores the interaction of static and dynamic musical materials. The core structure is designed with the mutual contrast of these two gestural characteristics, with the merging and echoing effects among each instrument.

The first half of the piece is the alternation between the free section (static) and the “time-signature bounded” (dynamic) section, the high long notes of clarinet is featured as the imitation of the signals.

The middle *lontano* section acts as a buffer or transitional passage for the whole composition.

The fragmental motivic elements of the first half are now integrated and developed in the latter section. The potential huge momentum of the musical gesture is unleashed, as if the natural phenomenon of fluorescence, the music gradually climbs to its summit!

The coda is characterized by solo clarinet and the strings’ sustained note.

This work is commissioned by Hong Kong Composers’ Guild with the sponsorship from the CASH Music Fund.

Wong Chun-wai

Wong Chun-wai graduated from the Music Department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong, and The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (major in composition) in 2010 and 2011 respectively. He is currently a MMus candidate in composition at The Chinese University of Hong Kong, under the supervision of Professor Wendy Lee Wan-ki. He has also studied composition with Dr. Lo Hau-man, Professor Victor Chan Wai-kwong and Clarence Mak Wai-chu.



Wong has a versatile composition profile that spans from chamber and orchestral music to musicals and film scores. He was awarded the Academic Creativity Award by the Chinese University of Hong Kong, the Audience Prize in the composition concert of Hong Kong Kamerata in 2010, and the first prize in the New Generation Concert in 2011. His piece *Nhemamusasa* has been selected to be performed in ISCM (International Society for Contemporary Music) World Music Days 2012. In 2010, Wong was also granted The Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong Scholarship.

He is now a member of the Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Composers' Guild.

Wong Chun-wai
Nhemamusasa – Programme Notes

Nhemamusasa is an African word meaning “cutting branches for shelter”. There has been record of African soldiers making shelter from branches during war. *Nhemamusasa* is used as title to suggest the war theme. This piece is written as the composer feels deeply about the crisis in North Africa. Special use of melodic gesture, timbre, rhythm and playing style gives it an ethnic flavour. The music conveys the feeling of distress and indignation of the African citizens at war. The piece unfolds with slow sober croons in the low flute over a bleak background while pulse of war keeps stirring up. Growing agitation is heard to suggest war pending; contrasting gestures of intrusion and yelling are smashed and superimposed to suggest the cry of victims. After a heart-wrenching cry, the croon turns into wordless sigh and questioning, the piece concludes with the last tear that dries in sadness as the violin harmonics fades.

Mike Yuen Wai-fung

Mike Yuen is currently studying for a bachelor's degree at The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, majoring in composition and electronic music with Tang Man-ngai. He started to play the piano and electric guitar at the age of 8 and has always shown passion in writing music and music improvisation. In 2011 Mike represented Hong Kong with his work *Faces* at the ACL young composer competition in Taipei. He won second prize at the Hong Kong New Generation Composition Concert 2010 with his piece *The Rain*. In 2009 his work *Shades* for piano trio was selected by The New Zealand Trio for their national tour selections in New Zealand. Mike Yuen is also passionate as a guitarist, in 2010 he started to write his own music for electric guitar, combining the styles of Rock and Roll, Blues, Classical Contemporary and Free Improvisation in his playing. Mike was invited by the "39th Hong Kong Arts Festival" to play guitars and bass for the film project "Piccadilly revisited" by composer Ruth Chan and director David Tse.



Yuen Wai-fung
Faces – Programme Notes

Faces is a octet for Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Piano, Percussion, Violin, Viola and Cello. The idea of *Faces* came from the various differences of mankind, we all live in one world with different colours, religions and live-styles. But in the past thousands of years human and nations warred for the reason of our differences; nowadays we are still fighting for the same reason. If we wish to stop the bleeding, accepting the dissimilarity is the only way out. The music puts emphasis on music characters, changes in texture, and tone colours of the combination of instruments.