

LEI LIANG



Composer Brochure

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CHRONOLOGY

- 1972 Born in Tianjin (China) on November 28
- 1990 Began studies in the United States
- 1996 Awarded the New England Conservatory George Whitefield Chadwick Medal and the Tourjée Alumni Scholarship Award
- 1998 Named Junior Fellow at Harvard University Society of Fellows
- 2000 Encounter Records releases "March Cathedral" featuring Liang's *Against Piano, Garden Eight, Garden Six, Dialectal Percussions, Feng, Extend, and Garden Nine*
- 2001 Recipient of a Harvard University Milton Fund grant
- 2002-2004 Awarded a Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans
- 2004 Awarded a Heinrich Strobel Foundation bursary from the South West German Radio Experimentalstudio
- 2007 Joins music faculty at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
- 2008 Recipient of a Fondazione William Walton Residency Award, as well as an Aaron Copland Award and ASCAPLUS Award
- 2009 Recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship
New York Philharmonic commissions and premieres Liang's "Verge" as part of inaugural CONTACT! series
Mode Records releases "Brush-Stroke", featuring Liang's "Serashi Fragments", "Some Empty Thoughts of a Person from Edo", "Memories of Xiaoxiang", "Trio", "In Praise of Shadows", "My Windows", and "Brush-Stroke".
- 2011 Recipient of the Elliott Carter Rome Prize from the American Academy in Rome
Taipei Chinese Orchestra premieres "Tremors of a Memory Chord" with pianist Pi-Hsien Chen.
New World Records releases portrait album "Milou", featuring "Ascension", "A Journey Into Desire", "Winged Creatures", "Yuan", "Lake", "Harp Concerto" and "Milou".
- 2012 Received the Alpert/Ragdale Music Composition Prize
Naxos Records releases "Verge" featuring Liang's "Aural Hypothesis", "Five Seasons", "Tremors of a Memory Chord" and "Verge" for 18 solo strings .
- 2013 Chamber opera "Cuatro Corridos" premieres at UCSD with Susan Narucki, soprano; Aleck Karis, piano; Steven Schick, percussion and Pablo Gómez, guitar.
Named Composer-in-Residence at Calit2's Qualcomm Institute, University of California, San Diego
- 2014 Boston Modern Orchestra Project premieres revised version of *Xiaoxiang* concerto for alto saxophone, with Gil Rose conducting and soloist Chien-Kwan Lin
Bridge Records releases portrait album "Bamboo Lights" including "Listening for Blossoms", "Lakescape", "Serashi Fragments", and "Bamboo Lights".
Yellow Barn hosts Lei Liang as composer-in-residence
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- 2015 Liang's "Xiaoxiang" Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Orchestra named a finalist for the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Music.
 Named full professor of Music at University of California, San Diego.
 Awarded 2015 Koussevitzky Foundation Commission from the Library of Congress for "Song Recollections"
 Mark Dresser premieres Liang's concerto for contrabass and ensemble "Luminous" with the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, conducted by Steven Schick.
- 2016 Columbia University's Miller Theatre honors Liang with a Composer Portraits Concert, featuring the New York premiere of "Luminous" and "Lakeside V" for Loadbang, commissioned by Miller Theatre.
- 2018 Musicians from Yellow Barn present "Garden Series" for various instrumentations alongside J.S. Bach's "Musical Offering" in Vermont and at Symphony Space in New York City.
- The ZOFO Piano Duet (Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi) performs the world premiere of "Will you come to my dream?" at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music as part of the ensemble's commissioning program, ZOFOMOMA.
- The Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), led by Gil Rose, presents the world premiere of "A Thousand Mountains, A Million Streams" at Jordan Hall in Boston.
- 2020 University of Louisville Grawemeyer Award for Music Composition for "A Thousand Mountains, A Million Streams"

Stage Works

Chamber Opera

Cuatro Corridos: "Rose"

one act from a four act chamber opera (2012)

text by Jorge Volpi

(English)

Commissioned by Susan Narucki

Policewoman · soprano

1perc(5 tom-t [bng, congas], sm b.d, tempbl, wood chime, mar [5-octave])-gtr.pno

11' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: May 8, 2013 · San Diego, CA (USA)

Experimental Theater, University of California

Susan Narucki, soprano; Aleck Karis, piano; Steven Schick, percussion; Pablo Gómez, guitar

Inheritance

A chamber opera (2018)

based on the life of Sarah Winchester

Libretto by Matt Donovan

(English)

Commissioned and produced by Susan Narucki with the support of Creative Capital, the National Endowment for the Arts and the University of California at San Diego

Sarah Winchester · soprano - Ghost 1 · soprano - Ghost 2 · alto - Ghost 3/Tour Guide · baritone

2cl-tpt-2perc-hpd.gtr-db

70' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: October 24, 2018 · San Diego, CA (USA)

University of California, Experimental Theater of the Conrad Prebys Music Center

Susan Narucki, soprano; Josué Cerón, baritone; Kirsten Ashley Wiest, soprano; Hillary Jean Young, soprano · Conductor: Steven Schick

Original staging: Cara Consilvio · Costumes: Ligia Bouton · Set design: Ligia Bouton (scenic)

Orchestra

Orchestra

A Thousand Mountains, A Million Streams

for orchestra (2017)

This composition was made possible by the grant from the Jebediah Foundation New Music Commissions

2(1.pic, 2.af).2.2(2.bcl).2-2.2.1.btb.1-3perc(I: xylo, med. gong, bng, 2sus cym, tempbl, pepples, spring drum, lg tam-t, bamboo chimes, tub bells, bamboo chimes, guiro, finger cym, reibestock [friction stick, for arco], double bass bow; II: crot [2 octaves], mar, 2cong, lg cym, tempbl, pepples, med. spring drum, log drum, guiro, reibestock, double bass bow; III: crot [2 octaves], lg cym, b.d, tempbl, vib, bamboo chimes, pebbles, lg spring drum, timp, guiro, chamois mallets, double bass bow)-hp.pno-10.str(10.10.8.6.6)

35' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: April 21, 2018 · Boston, MA (USA)

Jordan Hall

Conductor: Gil Rose · Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Chamber Orchestra - Ensemble

Bamboo Lights

for chamber orchestra (2013)

Commissioned by and dedicated to Stephen Drury and the Callithumpian Consort

I Howling bamboo - II Fagility - III Dark echoes - IV Meeting our ancestors' eyes

1(pic).1.1.1-1.1.1.0-2perc(I: 4timp, crot, bng, b.d, bamboo chimes, lg bottle [or whistle]; II: xyl, mar, cym, tamt, bng, flex, lg bottle)-hp.pno-2vn.va.vc.db

11' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: February 21, 2013 · Boston, MA (USA)

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum

Conductor: Stephen Drury · Callithumpian Consort

Brush-Stroke

for small orchestra (2004)

Commissioned by and dedicated to Steven Drury and the Callithumpian Consort

1.1.1.1-1.1.1.0-2perc(crot, vib, mar, sus cym, gong, bamboo chimes, pebbles, tam-t, b.d, bng, cong, tempbl)-pno-str(1.1.1.1.1)

11' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: February 23, 2005 · Boston, MA (USA)

Jordan Hall
Conductor: Steven Drury · Callithumpian Consort

Luminous

for solo contrabass and chamber ensemble (2014)

Commissioned by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, made possible by a generous grant from TenFourteen LLC, an arm of the Jebediah Foundation

bass clarinet (with small spring drum), horn (with medium spring drum), percussion (3cym, 5tempbl, whip, whistle, guiro, 1timp, crot, vib, 2bng, tam-t, b.d), piano (with protractor and slide bar), violin (with small spring drum), viola (with medium spring drum), cello (with large spring drum)

20' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 29, 2015 · Berkeley, CA (USA)

Hertz Hall

Mark Dresser, contrabass · Conductor: Steven Schick · San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

vis-à-vis

for pipa and percussion (2018)

Commissioned by La Jolla Music Society for SummerFest

15' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30193 (Score)

Premiere: August 14, 2018 · La Jolla, CA (USA)

Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Wu Man, pipa; Steven Schick, percussion

String Orchestra - String Ensemble

Verge

for eighteen solo strings (2009)

Commissioned by the New York Philharmonic, Alan Gilbert, Music Director

This piece was composed on the verge of an exciting moment in my life: the birth of our son Albert Shin Liang. Albert's musical name - A, B (Bb), E, D (re) - asserts itself in different configurations and disguises as basic harmonic and melodic material. His heartbeat also makes an appearance in the form of changing tempi and pulsations. In a sense, I composed the piece in order to make a musical amulet for Albert. On a technical level, I was fascinated by the dialectical relationship between the convergence and divergence of musical voices found in the traditional heterophonic music of Mongolia. There, the functionality of a principal line and its accompaniment can interchange, and often not synchronously. The 18 strings are divided into antiphonal groups: left versus right, front versus rear. They diverge into various sub-ensembles, quartets, and also appear as 18 virtuosic soloists. Near the end, they converge into a singular voice. Verge was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and its Music Director, Alan Gilbert. It was premiered on December 17th, 2009 in Symphony Space at the inaugural concert of the Philharmonic's new music series CONTACT!, conducted by Magnus Lindberg. - Lei Liang

8vn.4va.4vc.2db

11' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: December 17, 2009 · New York, NY (USA)

Symphony Space

Conductor: Magnus Lindberg

Wind Orchestra - Wind Ensemble

Parallel Gardens

for 24 saxophones (2006)

Commissioned by Shyen Lee

2sopranino sax.4ssax.6asax.6tenorsax.4barsax.2bsax

9' 0"

Material on hire

Solo Instruments with Orchestra or Ensemble

Piano

Tremors of a Memory Chord

for piano and grand Chinese orchestra (2011)

Commissioned by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra

2bangdi.2qudi.soprano sheng.alto sheng.bass sheng.2soprano suona.2alto shuona.tenor suona.2yangqin.3pipa.2liuqin.3zhongruan.2daruan.zheng-6perc(30tempbl, 2datanggu, danpigu, 2nanbangzi, bianzi, bangzi, 4paigu, xiaotanggu, xiaoluo, daluo, 2pengling, 2tom-t, 2zhuban, 2bongo)-2gaohu.2erhu.zhonghu.gehu.bgehu

18' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: April 14, 2011 · Taipei (TW)

National Concert Hall

Pi-Hsien Chen, piano · Conductor: En Shao · Taipei Chinese Orchestra

Saxophone

Xiaoxiang

Concerto for alto saxophone and orchestra (2009 (2014))

Commissioned by Chien-Kwan Lin

2.2.2.bcl.2.-4.2.2.btb.1-3perc(I. crot[2 octaves], bng, 2sus cym [high and medium], thin beaters, double bass bow [arco]; II. mar, crot[2 octaves], cong, cym, finger cym, tam-t, double bass bow [arco]; III. b.d, tempbl, vib, marac, double bass bow [arco])-hp-str(10.10.8.6.4)

10' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 28, 2014 · Boston, MA (USA)

Jordan Hall

Chien-Kwan Lin, saxophone · Conductor: Gil Rose · Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Harp

Harp Concerto

for harp and chamber orchestra (2008)

Commissioned by the Manhattan Sinfonietta

1.1.1.1-1.1.1.0-2perc(timp, crot, xyl, vib, tri, cym, gong, bng, cong, b.d, chimes, Reibestock)-str(1.1.1.1.1)

15' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: February 18, 2009 · New York, NY (USA)

Merkin Concert Hall

June Han, harp · Conductor: Jeffrey Milarsky · Manhattan Sinfonietta

Chinese Instruments

Tremors of a Memory Chord

for piano and grand Chinese orchestra (2011)

Commissioned by the Taipei Chinese Orchestra

2bangdi.2qudi.soprano sheng.alto sheng.bass sheng.2soprano suona.2alto shuona.tenor suona.2yangqin.3pipa.2liuqin.3zhongruan.2daruan.zheng-6perc(30tempbl, 2datanggu, danpigu, 2nanbangzi, bianzi, bangzi, 4paigu, xiaotanggu, xiaoluo, daluo, 2pengling, 2tom-t, 2zhuban, 2bongo)-2gaohu.2erhu.zhonghu.gehu.bgehu

18' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: April 14, 2011 · Taipei (TW)

National Concert Hall

Pi-Hsien Chen, piano · Conductor: En Shao · Taipei Chinese Orchestra

Chamber Music

Déjà Vu

for violin and percussion (2019)

Commissioned by Premiere Performances of Hong Kong (with the support of Sharene and Ian Mak)

15' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30324 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: January 16, 2020 · Hong Kong (HK)

Hong Kong City Hall Concert Hall

Cho-Liang Lin, violin; Zhe Lin, percussion

Gobi Gloria

for string quartet (2014)

Commissioned by the Ying Quartet

11' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30141 (Score and parts)

Premiere: March 15, 2007 (USA)

University Hall at Harvard University

Inkscape

for percussion quartet and piano (2014)

Jointly commissioned by Boston Conservatory Percussion Ensemble (Music Director, Samuel Solomon), The Manhattan School of Music Percussion Ensemble (Music Director, Jeffrey Milarsky), and Third Coast Percussion

12' 30"

Ordernumber: ED 30289 (Score and parts)

Premiere: October 2, 2014 · Boston, MA (USA)

Boston Conservatory Theater

Yukiko Takagi, piano · Conductor: Samuel Solomon · Boston Conservatory Percussion Ensemble

Journey

for solo violin (2023)

Commissioned in honor of Joani Nelson by Gary P. Poon to celebrate her exceptional journey and a remarkable life.

10' "

Ordernumber: ED 30455 (Score)

Lakescape IX

for piccolo (2024)

Commissioned by the National Flute Association for the 2024 Piccolo Artist Competition

7' "

Ordernumber: ED 30462 (Score)

Lakescape VI

for woodwind quintet (2018)

Commissioned by the Chamber Music Conference and Composers' Forum of the East, Inc., 2018

7' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30281 (Score and parts)

Premiere: July 25, 2018 · Bennington, VT (USA)

Bennington Chamber Music Conference

Bennington Chamber Music Conference participants

Lakescape VII

for bamboo flute ensemble (2018)

Commissioned by the Chinese Bamboo Flute Orchestra and its Artistic Director, Zhang Weiliang

8' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30290 (Score)

Premiere: December 12, 2018 · Beijing (CN)

The Grand National Theater of China

Conductor: Zhang Weiliang · The Chinese Bamboo Flute Orchestra

Lakescape VIII

for flute and vibraphone (2019)

Commissioned by the 2020 John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium

8' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30325 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: February 3, 2020 · Albuquerque, NM (USA)

University of New Mexico

Wave Dash

Luminous

for solo contrabass and chamber ensemble (2014)

Commissioned by the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, made possible by a generous grant from TenFourteen LLC, an arm of the Jebediah Foundation

bass clarinet (with small spring drum), horn (with medium spring drum), percussion (3cym, 5tempbl, whip, whistle, guiro, 1timp, crot, vib, 2bng, tam-t, b.d), piano (with protractor and slide bar), violin (with small spring drum), viola (with medium spring drum), cello (with large spring drum)

20' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: March 29, 2015 · Berkeley, CA (USA)

Hertz Hall

Mark Dresser, contrabass · Conductor: Steven Schick · San Francisco Contemporary Music Players

Mongolian Suite

for cello solo (2022)

Commissioned by and written for Erica Wise

Ordernumber: ED 30433

Premiere: February 3, 2023 · Barcelona (E)

Servei Solidari

Erica Wise, cello

Mongolian Suite

version for solo violin (2023)

16' "

Ordernumber: ED 30445 (Score)

Mongolian Suite

version for viola solo (2023)

Commissioned by Yellow Barn as part of a special commissioning project in memory of Roger Tapping

16' "

Ordernumber: ED 30453 (Score)

Premiere: September 19, 2023 · Boston, MA (USA)

Jordan Hall

Liz Freivogel, viola

Mother's Songs

for viola and pipa (2020)

Co-commissioned by Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Capital Region Classical, Foundation of Chinese Performing Arts, and Rockport Chamber Music Festival with leadership support from Robert Amory

12' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30386 (Score and part)

Premiere: June 30, 2022 · Rockport, MA (USA)

Rockport Music Festival

Hsin-Yun Huang, viola; Wu Man, pipa

Petal by Petal, Leaf by Leaf

for flute, viola, and harp

Commissioned for Art of Élan

9' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30195 (Score)

Serashi Fragments

for string quartet (2005)

Commissioned by the Arditti Quartet

7' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31080 (Score and parts)

Premiere: April 2, 2006 · Cambridge, MA (USA)

Paine Hall, Harvard University

Arditti Quartet

Silk and Bamboo Concerto

for flute (or bamboo flute) and string quartet (2023)

Commissioned by the National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing for Zhang Weiliang and Fusion Quartet

12' "

Ordernumber: ED 30440 (Score and parts)

Six Seasons

for any number of improvising musicians and pre-recorded sounds (2022)

Six Seasons was commissioned by the Mivos Quartet. It was made possible by a generous grant from the Jebediah Foundation New Music Commissions.

15' "

Ordernumber: ED 30437 (Score (also performing score))

Premiere: October 15, 2022 · San Diego (USA)

The Experimental Theater, Conrad Prebys Music Center

Mivos Quartet

Song Recollections

for string quartet (2016)

Commissioned by Art of Élan for the Formosa Quartet, with the support from Koussevitzky Music Foundation and Chamber Music America

24' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31278 (Score and parts)

Premiere: March 29, 2016 · San Diego, CA (USA)

San Diego Museum of Art

Formosa Quartet

vis-à-vis

for pipa and percussion (2018)

Commissioned by La Jolla Music Society for SummerFest

15' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30193 (Score)

Premiere: August 14, 2018 · La Jolla, CA (USA)

Conrad Prebys Concert Hall

Wu Man, pipa; Steven Schick, percussion

Yuan

for saxophone quartet (2008)

Commissioned by the World-Wide Concurrent Premieres, Inc. and made possible by a grant from the Fromm Music Foundation

sopsax.asax.tensax.barsax

17' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30048 (Score and parts)

Premiere: February 17, 2009 · Boston, MA (USA)

Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory of Music

Radnofsky Quartet

Keyboard Instruments

Piano

Piano solo

America the Beautiful ...devastatingly quiet...

for solo piano (2020)

Commissioned by and written for pianist Min Kwon and the Center for Musical Excellence

4' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30376 (Score)

Premiere: July 6, 2021 · Bedminster, NJ (USA)

Center for Musical Excellence

Min Kwon, piano

(Streaming)

Piano duet

The Tree Rings

for piano four-hands (2016)

Commissioned by The Friends of Today's Music Program of the Music Teachers' Association of California.

9' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30169

Premiere: July 2, 2017 · Santa Clara, CA (USA)

Santa Clara Hyatt Regency and Convention Center

Performed by participants (aged 13-18) of the 2017 Music Teachers' Association State Convention

Will you come to my dream?

for piano, four-hands (2017)

Commissioned by ZOFO (pianists Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi)

3' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 30192

Premiere: January 27, 2018 · San Francisco, CA (USA)

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

ZOFO (Eva-Maria Zimmermann and Keisuke Nakagoshi, piano)

Vocal Music

Choral music

Mixed Choir

A Dream Within a Dream

for SATB chorus, soprano saxophone and piano (2007)

text (Eng) based on poems by Bada Shanren, translated by Lei Liang
(English)

Commissioned by the Chinese Choral Society of Rochester (CCSR) with funding provided by the Arts
& Cultural Council for Greater Rochester

5' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: May 5, 2007 · Fairport, NY (USA)
Fairport High School
Chinese Choral Society of Rochester

Symphonic vocal works

Choir with Orchestra or Instruments

A Dream Within a Dream

for SATB chorus, soprano saxophone and piano (2007)

text (Eng) based on poems by Bada Shanren, translated by Lei Liang
(English)

Commissioned by the Chinese Choral Society of Rochester (CCSR) with funding provided by the Arts
& Cultural Council for Greater Rochester

5' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: May 5, 2007 · Fairport, NY (USA)
Fairport High School
Chinese Choral Society of Rochester

Voice(s) and Chamber Ensemble (2-12 instruments)

Cuatro Corridos: "Rose"

one act from a four act chamber opera (2012)

text by Jorge Volpi
(English)

Commissioned by Susan Narucki

Policewoman · soprano

1perc(5 tom-t [bng, congas], sm b.d, tempbl, wood chime, mar [5-octave])-gtr.pno

11' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: May 8, 2013 · San Diego, CA (USA)

Experimental Theater, University of California

Susan Narucki, soprano; Aleck Karis, piano; Steven Schick, percussion; Pablo Gómez, guitar

Lakescape V

for baritone, trumpet, trombone, and bass clarinet (2016)

text by Wai-lim Yip

(Chinese, English)

Commissioned by Miller Theatre at Columbia University, The Shapiro Fund, and Eleanor Eisenmenger, for loadbang

11' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 31309 (Score and parts)

Premiere: November 17, 2016 · New York, NY (USA)

Miller Theatre at Columbia University

loadbang