

XILIN WANG



Composer Brochure

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This catalogue was created in March 2024. All durations are approximate.

CHRONOLOGY

1936	Born in Kaifeng in Henan Province, China; raised in Gansu
1949	Joins People's Liberation Army due to family poverty
1955	Begins studies at the Beijing Military Music Conducting School, Central Military Commission in China
1957	Studies at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music under the instruction of Liu Zhuang, Chen Mingzhi, Ding Shande and Qu Wei
1962	Composes the first movement of <i>Symphony No. 1</i> as his graduation project, supervised by Qu Wei
1962	Appointed Composer in Residence with Beijing Central Radio Symphony Orchestra with the completion of the second and third movements of <i>Symphony No. 1</i>
1963	Premiere of <i>Yunnan Tone Poem</i>
1963	Faces government persecution
1964	Exiled to the Yanbei Arts Troupe in Datong City, Shanxi province
1966	Criticized publicly, tortured and imprisoned as a counter-revolutionary during the Chinese Cultural Revolution
1970	Released from prison as political unrest subsided
1970	Appointed conductor of the Southeast Shanxi Song and Dance Ensemble.
1978	Allowed to return to Beijing following the end of the Cultural Revolution.
1978	Encounters previously banned music by prominent Western composers: Schoenberg, Bartók, Stravinsky and Penderecki among others
1979	Begins to employ serialism, minimalism and tone clusters, as well as integrating regional folk music into his works.
1981	<i>Yunnan Tone Poem</i> awarded the highest prize by the Chinese Government
1981	<i>Symphonic Suite "Musical Images of Mountain Taihang"</i> premiered by the American Modern Ensemble and live broadcast by VOA
1983	Composes music for the film <i>Boat People</i> , considered an important milestone in the development of Chinese cinema
1986	Composes music for the film <i>The Last Day of Winter</i> , widely regarded as a classic in Chinese cinema
1988	<i>Yunnan Tone Poem</i> tours Europe with the China Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra
1990	Composes <i>Symphony No. 3</i>
1993	Composes music for the film <i>Forging Swords</i> (Casting Swords) including a recording of Xilin Wang singing one of his songs

1994	Visits the USA and participates in the Festival of Music by Contemporary Chinese Composers at SUNY Buffalo aided by the Asian Cultural Council of the Rockefeller Foundation. Delivers lectures at 8 universities including Yale University and the University of Cincinnati
1996	Composes <i>Symphonic Murals "Legends of the Sea"</i>
1999	Appointed Composer in Residence with Beijing Symphony Orchestra.
2000	Premiere of <i>Spring Rain</i> , awarded the highest prize in the China National Art Songs Competition
2000	A political statement during a dress rehearsal causes the Chinese Government to cancel a portrait concert
2001	Premiere of <i>Symphony No. 4</i> in Taipei and Taichung by the National Taiwan Symphony Orchestra conducted by Chen Chengxion
2001	Composes <i>Symphony No. 5</i>
2004	<i>Symphonic Murals "Legends of the Sea"</i> awarded China 10th National Music Competition Symphonic Music Prize
2004	Premiere of <i>Symphony No. 6</i> , commissioned by Beijing Symphony Orchestra to celebrate the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics
2006	Concert celebrating 50th anniversary of Xilin Wang's composing career with <i>Symphony No. 5</i> , <i>Violin Concerto</i> and <i>Symphony No. 4</i>
2007	Premiere of <i>Symphony No. 7</i> completed and premiered at the celebration concert for the 80th anniversary of the Shanghai Conservatory of Music
2009	Premieres of <i>Symphony No. 8</i> in Shanghai, Tianjin and Berlin
2010	Premiere of <i>Concerto for Piano and Orchestra</i> at the 10th Switzerland Culturescapes International Arts Festival in Zurich
2012	<i>Symphony No. 8</i> awarded China 16th National Music Competition Symphonic Music Prize
2014	Schott Music begins to publish the works of Xilin Wang
2015	Premiere of <i>Symphony No. 9 "China Requiem"</i> on China's National Public Memorial Day
2015	Premiere of <i>Symphony No. 10</i>
2017	Recording of <i>Symphonic Suite "Murals of the Yellow River"</i> wins Best Classical Original Album Award from the China Audio-video and Digital Publishing Association
2018	Relocates from China to Germany
2020	Finalises <i>Symphony No. 2</i> , begun in 1979
2021	German premiere of <i>Symphony No. 5</i>
2022	Composes <i>Concerto for Violoncello and Strings</i>
2023	Documentary <i>Man in Black</i> , a 56 minute film about Xilin Wang directed by Wang Bing, chosen for the Special Screenings at the 76th Festival de Cannes

2023 Completed the opera *Casting Swords* which has been in preparation for over 30 years

Orchestra

Orchestra

Symphonic Suite from "Taigu Yang-ge"

for orchestra, op. 55 (2010)

Commissioned by the Municipal Culture Bureau of Jinzhong, Shanxi province

I Allegro con brio - II Antantino - III Allegro · Intermezzo - IV Funeral ·

33' 0"

Material on hire

Symphony No. 3

for orchestra, op. 26 (1990)

I Adagio - II Allegretto - III Largo - IV Allegretto

3(3.pic).3.3.3-4.3.3.1-timp.4perc-str

62' 0"

Material on hire

Symphony No.4

for orchestra, op. 38 (1999 - 2000)

3(3.pic).3.3.3.cbsn-4.4.3.1-timp.4perc(glsp, vib, xyl, sus cym, cym, tam-tam, xiao cha, b.d., tamb, 5 tom-toms, slapstick)-pno.cel-str

40' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: September 11, 2001 · Taizhong (TW)

Chamber Orchestra - Ensemble

Symphony No. 8

for three traditional Chinese instruments and chamber orchestra, op. 54

16' 0"

Material on hire

String Orchestra - String Ensemble

Symphony No. 5

for 22 strings, op. 40 (2001 - 2006)

12vln.4vla,4vc,2db

26' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: December 10, 2006 · Beijing (CN)

Forbidden City Concert Hall
Conductor: Tan Lihua · Beijing Symphony Orchestra

Symphony No. 5

for 22 strings, op. 40 (2001 - 2006)

12vln.4vla,4vc,2db

26' 0"

Ordernumber: ED 13856 (Study score)

Solo Instruments with Orchestra or Ensemble

Piano

Concerto for Piano and Orchestra

for piano and orchestra, op. 56 (2010)

Commissioned by Culturescapes Basel, Switzerland

I Allegro Minaccioso Aspro - II Passacaglia Lento Adagio - III Toccata Allegretto Belebt

3(3.pic).3.3(1.Acl, 3.bcl).3(3.cbsn)-4.3.3.1-timp(tri).3perc(vib, cym, tam-t, 5tom-t, tamb, bongos, b.d., templeblk, flexatone, ratchet, whip)-hp.pno.cel-str(14.12.10.8.6)

35' 0"

Material on hire

Premiere: November 6, 2010 · Zurich (CH)

Neues Theater Spirgarten

Culturescapes International Arts Festival 2010

Sa Chen, piano · Conductor: Francesc Prat · Basel Sinfonietta

Chinese Instruments

Symphony No. 8

for three traditional Chinese instruments and chamber orchestra, op. 54

16' 0"

Material on hire