

In partnership with the Asian District Cultural Association and
Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce, Harding Fine
Arts Academy presents



Modern Expressions of Tradition

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Alumni, Donors, and Friends:

Harding Fine Arts Academy is more than just a school!

It is a place where students come to thrive using arts-integration and experiential learning in all academic subjects while developing their passion and skills in the arts.

Our goal is to become a trusted source for free, high-quality entertainment and public arts education through programs like the Ignite Master Artist Series.

The purpose of the Series is to actively advance the arts by cultivating rich and transformative learning opportunities for our students and inspiring audiences through free community concerts.

In addition to the concert this evening, our students had exclusive opportunities to work with different Asian-American Artists. History students completed a residency with Japan America Society of Oklahoma learning about calligraphy. Their artwork is displayed in the hallway outside the auditorium. Our dance students had the opportunity to attend a KPOP (Korean Hip Hop) masterclass with Chanh Le and our orchestra students attended a seminar with Dr. Zhou Long to learn about composition as an art and career option.

This Series would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors included in this program. If you are interested in supporting our efforts, please contact Shannon Mckenrick-Okou, Executive Director, of Harding Fine Arts Academy Foundation.

Thank you very much for being here tonight. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our beautiful and historic school.

Yours in ARTS,

Taylor C. Stanton
Superintendent
Harding Fine Arts Academy



Harding Fine Arts Academy presents Ignite Master Artist Series

Modern Expressions of Tradition

Dr. Zhou Long, composer

Katrin Stamatis, violin

Amy I-Lin Cheng, piano

Jonathan Ruck, cello

Andrew Ranson, tenor/narrator

Hung Viet Dragon and Lion Dance Association

Harding Fine Arts Academy Auditorium | Friday, April 26, 2024

PRE-SHOW

Artist Talk with Dr. Zhou Long, Japan America Society of Oklahoma, and Hung Viet Dragon and Lion Dance Association

ACT I

A Set of Chinese Folk Songs*
for violin

arr. Zhou Long

- i. Lan Hua Hua (Shaanbei)
- ii. Driving the Mule Team (Shaanxi)
- iii. The Flowing Stream (Yunnan)
- iv. Jasmine Flower (Jiangsu)
- v. A Horseherd's Mountain Song (Yunnan)
- vi. When will the Acacia Bloom? (Sichuan)
- vii. A Single Bamboo Can Easily Bend (Hunan)
- viii. Leaving Home (Shanxi)

Pianobells
for piano

Zhou Long

Wild Grass
for cello

Zhou Long (1993)

with Poetry Recitation in Chinese

Lu Hsen (1881-1936)

INTERMISSION (10 min)

ACT II

Dragon and Lion Dance demonstration performed by Hung Viet Dragon and Lion Dance Association.

**Show notes available on next page*

Show Notes

Show notes provided by Zhou Long

Wild Grass, Foreward

by Lu Hsun (1881-1936)

Being recited tonight is the foreword to the poem “Wild Grass” by Lu Hsun (1881-1936), the father of contemporary Chinese literature. Lu Hsun is not only a prolific writer, but also a great revolutionary and thinker. This foreword was written in White Cloud Pavilion, Guangzhou, on April 26, 1927. The English translation, by Feng Yu-sheng, in 1931, reads:

“When I am silent, I feel replete; as I open my mouth to speak, I am conscious of emptiness.

The past life has died. I exult over its death, because from this I know that it once existed. The dead life has decayed. I exult over its decay, because from this I know that it has not been empty.

From the clay of life abandoned on the ground grow no lofty trees, only wild grass. For that I am to blame.

Wild grass strikes no deep roots, has no beautiful flowers and leaves, yet it imbibes dew, water and the blood and flesh of the dead, although all try to rob it of life, As long as it lives it is trampled upon and mown down, until it dies and decays.

But I am not worried; I am glad. I shall laugh aloud and sing.

I love my wild grass, but I detest the ground which decks itself with wild grass.

A subterranean fire is spreading, raging, underground. Once the molten lava breaks through the earth’s crust, it will consume all the wild grass and lofty trees, leaving nothing to decay.

But I am not worried; I am glad. I shall laugh aloud and sing.

Heaven and earth are so serene that I cannot laugh aloud or sing. Even if they were not so serene, I probably could not either. Between light and darkness, life and death, past and future, I dedicate this tussock of wild grass as my pledge to friend and foe, man and beast, those whom I love and those whom I do not love.

For my own sake and for the sake of friend and foe, man and beast, those whom I love and those whom I do not love, I hope for the swift death and decay of this wild grass. Otherwise, it means I have not lived, and this would be truly more lamentable than death and decay.

Go, then, wild grass, together with my foreword!”

A Set of Chinese Folk Songs

1) **Lan Hua Hua** (Shaanbei): The story of a country girl who flees with her lover to escape from a forced marriage to a rich family.

2) **Driving the Mule Team** (Shaanxi): As a team of mule drivers passed by a young man looks to see if his girlfriend is among them

3) **The Flowing Stream** (Yunnan): Seeing the moon above and the flowing waters below, a young girl turns to thoughts of her lover. The rising moon is bright, my sweetheart is in the deep mountain, he is like the moon walking in the sky. My sweetheart! The flowing stream around the mountain is clear. The moon is shining over the hillside. Looking at the moon and thinking of my sweetheart, the breezes are sweeping past the hillside. My sweetheart! Don't you hear me cry?

4) **Jasmine Flower** (Jiangsu): Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower, her sweet scent covers all others in the garden. I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid of the garden's keeper. Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower, she is as white as snow when she blooms. I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid of gossips. Jasmine flower, such a beautiful flower, her beauty defeats all others in the garden. I want to pluck her for myself, but I'm afraid she won't bud in the year to come.

5) **A Horseherd's Mountain Song** (Yunnan): Folk songs are often about the mundane occurrences of everyday life. A horseherd sings about horses needing to feed on grass and be grass meeting the morning dew to grow.

6) **When will the Acacia Bloom?** (Sichuan): A young girl awaits her lover under the Acacia tree. When asked by her mother what she is doing, she becomes embarrassed and replies that she is waiting for the Acacia flowers to bloom.

7) **A Single Bambee Can Easily Bend** (Hunan): The tune is composed in typical Hunan folk style. The words imply that unity is strength.

8) **Leaving Home** (Shanxi): A wife bids farewell to her husband who is going westward to seek livelihood.

Dr. Zhou Long

Composer

Zhou Long is internationally recognized for creating a unique body of music that brings together the aesthetic concepts and musical elements of East and West. Winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for his first opera, *Madame White Snake*, Dr. Zhou also received the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, the 2012-2013 Elise Stoecker Prize from Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society. He has been two-time recipient of commissions from the Koussevitzky, Fromm Music Foundations, Meet the Composer, Chamber Music America, and the New York State Council on the Arts. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. In 2015, Zhou Long and Chen Yi both were nominated the 58th Grammy Award.



Born on July 8, 1953, in Beijing, Zhou Long enrolled in the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing in 1977. Following graduation in 1983, he was appointed composer-in-residence with the China Broadcasting Symphony. He travelled to the United States in 1985 under a fellowship to attend Columbia University, where he studied with Chou Wen-Chung, Davidovsky and Edwards, receiving a Doctor of Musical Arts in 1993. Dr. Zhou is currently Bonfils Distinguished Research Professor of Composition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. Dr. Zhou's music of all genres has been widely performed, recorded, and published by the Oxford University Press and the Shanghai Music Publishing House.

Recently, he has completed a Symphonic Oratorio: *Men of Iron and the Golden Spike* for voices, choir, and orchestra (c. 50 minutes) co-commissioned by Stanford University and Bard College, premiered at the Carnegie Hall 2019, *Classic of Mountains and Seas – Concerto for Orchestra*, commissioned by the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, *Tipsy Poet* for violoncello and orchestra, co-commission by the WDR Symphony in Cologne, premiered at 2019 Dresden Music Festival and Singapore Symphony, *Tsingtao Overture*, which awarded China National Arts Fund; *Beijing Rhyme - A Symphonic Suite*, commissioned by the Beijing Symphony Orchestra, a quartet co-commissioned by the Wigmore Hall and Lincoln Center, and his first piano concerto *Postures* co-commissioned by the BBC Proms and Singapore Symphony. In 2013, Zhou Long composed a whole evening symphonic epic *Nine Odes* on poems by Qu Yuan for four solo vocalists and orchestra, commissioned by the Beijing Music Festival and premiered by the Guangzhou Symphony. Zhou's opera *Madame White Snake* will be co-produced by Paris' Opera Comique, Beijing Music Festival and San Francisco Opera to a brand-new stage in 2022.

Katrin Stamatis

Violinist

Violinist Katrin Stamatis maintains an active musical career that includes performance, research and pedagogy. Performances have taken her all over the world, including Fontainebleau, France, Venice, Italy, Leipzig, Germany and throughout Puerto Rico. She has also performed extensively in her native New York City, at venues such as Weill Recital Hall, the Tenri Institute, Museum of Arts and Design and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.



Katrin has played in the Albany Symphony Orchestra, the Vermont Symphony Orchestra and the Chelsea Symphony, with whom she was featured as soloist in the Brahms Double Concerto. For the past ten years, Katrin has been principal second violin of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.

A devoted pedagogue, Katrin has been on the faculty of the Calhoun School in New York City, the Larchmont Music Academy, and was a visiting professor of violin and viola at Drake University in 2009-10. She has taught at the Fresno Orchestra Summer Academy in Fresno, CA, and Katrin is a founding member of the Summer String Academy at the University of Oklahoma. Currently, she maintains a private studio in Norman, OK and performs regularly with the Brightmusic chamber ensemble in Oklahoma City.

Katrin received degrees from Barnard College (BA), Mannes College of Music (MM), and the University of Oklahoma (DMA). She lives in Norman, OK with her husband, cellist Jonathan Ruck and their two daughters, Arianna and Galia.

Amy I-Lin Cheng

Pianist

Born in Taiwan, pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng has appeared in recitals and music festivals across the United States and around the world. Amy's live performances have been heard on WGBH, KUCCO, WHYY, La Radio Suisse Romande-Espace 2, and NPR in Houston. Amy has recorded for Centaur, Albany, CDBaby and Naxos, with a recent release of the Piano Concerto by Vítězslava Kaprálová on Naxos, after she gave the North American premiere of the concerto at the Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor in 2015. Other concerto premieres include the 2017 US premiere of Improvisation on Misirlou, a single movement piano concerto by



Israeli-American composer Daniel Rein at the Sewanee Summer Music Festival, and 2019 world premiere of the Double Concerto for Yang Qin and Piano by Taiwanese composer Chun-Da Huang, collaborating with the National Chinese Orchestra Taiwan (NCO), at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She also recorded solo piano works by French composer Fernande Decruck, released on the Éditions Billaudot's youtube channel in fall 2022. As a chamber musician, Amy is the co-Artistic Director and pianist for the Brightmusic Chamber Music Series in Oklahoma City, and has toured with Duo Clarion, Trio Solari and the American Chamber Players.

A dedicated teacher, Amy's students have won awards at local, regional and national competitions and college teaching positions in the US and abroad. Amy is a graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music (BM), Yale University School of Music (MM and Artist Diploma), and the New England Conservatory (DMA). Amy is an Assistant Professor Music in Piano and Piano Chamber Music at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance in Ann Arbor, MI, where she lives with her family and two family pets. She will be returning to Oklahoma City to direct and perform for the 2024 Brightmusic Summer Festival in June 17-22, and be on faculty for the OU Summer String Academy in July 14-27 in Norman, OK.

Jonathan Ruck

Cellist

American cellist Jonathan Ruck maintains a multifaceted career as a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral musician and pedagogue. Praised for his "virtuosic command" and "full-bodied tone," he has performed throughout North America, Europe, Australia and the Caribbean. Festival appearances include recent engagements at the Oregon Bach Festival, Sanibel Island Festival, OK Mozart, Unruly Music, and as principal cellist of the International Chamber Orchestra of Puerto Rico. Jonathan currently serves as the principal cellist of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic.



An avid chamber musician, Jonathan Ruck is a core member of Brightmusic, Oklahoma City's resident chamber music ensemble. He has performed as a guest cellist with the American Chamber Players and Penderecki String Quartet and given recent world-premiere performances of chamber works by Christopher Theofanidis and Sydney Corbett. As a founding member of the Dubinsky String Quartet, Jonathan was a prizewinner in the Fischhoff and Coleman national chamber music competitions.

Jonathan Ruck joined the University of Oklahoma School of Music faculty in 2006. Previous appointments include serving as the teaching assistant to both Janos Starker and Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and a visiting professorship at the Depauw University School of Music. During the summer, he has enjoyed teaching on the faculties of the Fresno Summer Orchestra and Opera Academy (FOOSA), the Zodiac Festival in Southern

France and the Indiana University Summer String Academy. In 2018, he founded the University of Oklahoma Summer String Academy and continues as its director. Graduates of Jonathan Ruck's cello studio have been accepted to continue their studies at schools such as Juilliard, Indiana University, Eastman, Oberlin, and the Cleveland Institute of Music, and can be found in ensembles and on college and pre-college faculties throughout the world.

Jonathan Ruck currently lives in Norman, Oklahoma with his wife, violinist Katrin Statmatis, and their two daughters, Arianna and Galia.

Andrew Ranson

Tenor, Narrator

“Andrew Ranson’s keening tenor...has a kind of stately, noble tone to it” according to the Tulsa World (June, 2005). Originally from Gunnison, Colorado, Andrew has been seen in regional and touring productions as Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Alessandro in *Il Re Pastore*, Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*, Nanki-Poo in *The Mikado*, Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, Tebaldo in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, and Nelson Deadly in *Too Many Sopranos*. He has appeared with Opera Aperta, Boston Bel Canto Opera, Opera Colorado, the Pine Mountain Music Festival, and San Diego Opera. Mr. Ranson has appeared as a principal artist with the Amato Opera, Bronx Opera, Light Opera Oklahoma (LOOK), Opera Colorado Education Tour, Dicapo Opera Theater Young Artists, New York Chamber Opera, San Diego Opera Education Tour, Teatro Corleone and Troupers Light Opera.



As an oratorio soloist and concert artist, he has sung J.S. Bach's Magnificat as well as a number of Bach's cantatas, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy and Mass in C, Händel's Messiah and Sing Unto God, Haydn's Missa Cellensis and Lord Nelson Mass, Dubois', The Seven Last Words of Christ, Montiverdi's Vespers (1610), and Mozart's Requiem, as well as the title role of Benjamin Britten's Saint Nicolas. In Oklahoma City, he has appeared as a soloist with the Canterbury Choral Society and Bright Music Chamber Ensemble and appears regularly with TACTUS.

Bright Music Chamber Ensemble

Brightmusic is Oklahoma City's premier chamber music ensemble presenting fine small-ensemble classical music in a relaxed family-friendly setting. Since 2003, the Brightmusic Society of Oklahoma has brought exciting chamber music performances to Oklahoma City audiences. Artistic Directors Chad Burrow (clarinet) and Amy I-Lin Cheng (piano) lead a talented ensemble of musicians in five regular-season concerts and a multi-concert summer chamber music festival in June.





Hung Viet Dragon and Lion Dance Association

The Hung Viet Dragon and Lion Dance Association was established on December 20th, 2018. They operate as a prominent lion dance group based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Their primary objective is to effectively promote and disseminate Vietnamese traditions and culture within the local Oklahoma community through vibrant lion dance festivities.

Asian District Cultural Association

The mission of the Asian District Cultural Association is to promote and preserve the diverse culture of the Oklahoma City Asian District. They bridge and build community across generations by engaging and empowering the next generation of Asian-American Oklahomans. They accomplish our mission through events, beautification, and education & outreach. Oklahoma City's Asian District is located just off Classen Boulevard between Northwest 23rd Street and Northwest 30th Street. Bordered by the historic Gold Dome to the south, Oklahoma City University to the west, and Paseo Arts District to the east, Asian District is right in the middle of the city's beating heart.



Asian District
Cultural Association

Greater Oklahoma City Asian Chamber of Commerce

Founded in 2022, the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce was created to be an advocacy and support organization for the rapidly growing Asian business community and its board members hope to be a resource for those that need it.



THE GREATER OKLAHOMA CITY
ASIAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

Additional Partners

Prior to this evening's concert, students at Harding Fine Arts Academy had the exclusive opportunity to work with the Japan American Society of Oklahoma on calligraphy during history class, and take a KPOP (Korean Hip Hop) master class with Chanh Le.



Japan America Society of Oklahoma

Japan America Society of Oklahoma is a non-profit organization created in 1975 to promote cultural, educational, and social relationships between Japan, the United States in the state of Oklahoma.

Chanh Le

Chanh Le is a Vietnamese-American born and raised in Oklahoma City. He is an environmental project manager, coffee barista, dancer, choreographer, and serves as the board president of RACE Dance Collective a 501(c)3. He is in his 3rd season as a company dancer for RACE Dance Collective, performing in RACE's Hip Hop Nutcracker, Disorder, and the RACEy Show. He has choreographed for RACE's Hip Hop Nutcracker and regularly teaches Hip Hop and KPOP classes at RACE the Space.

Chanh's dance journey starts with his early memories of watching his older brother break dance and learning some moves from him. Growing up during the beginnings of YouTube, he learned how to dance by watching and copying choreographers online and was inspired by the dance crews that appeared on America's Best Dance Crew. Forming dance crew with his friends and dancing for RACE has been a dream. Chanh hopes that those who take his classes or watch him dance feels inspired to pursue their own creative interests and passions.

