

Opening Address



Mr. Justin Poy is the President and Creative Director of The Justin Poy Agency and an active member of Canada's Chinese community. He has won numerous Canadian and international advertising creative awards over the past 22 years and is a frequent keynote speaker across Canada and the U.S.. Justin is a Director on the Board of the SickKids Foundation, Vice-Chair of The Canadian Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation and is the recipient of the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals and the Chinese Canadian Legend Award. He is the Host and Co-Producer of the Rogers TV Show "Philanthropy Today" and the latest recipient of the Campbell's Food Services Award for Excellence in Cross-Cultural Business.

Artistic Directors



Chan Ka Nin is a distinguished Canadian composer whose extensive repertoire draws on both East and West in its aesthetic outlook. Professor of Theory and Composition at the University of Toronto, he has written in most musical genres and received many national and international prizes, including two JUNO awards, the Jean A. Chalmers Award, the Béla Bartók International Composers' Competition in Hungary, and the Barlow International Competition in the United States. In 2001 he won the Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Musical for his opera *Iron Road*, written with librettist Mark Brownell, depicting the 19th century construction of the Canadian national railroad by Chinese migrant laborers.

Characteristically luminous in texture and exotic in instrumental colors, Prof. Chan's music has been described by critics as "sensuous," "haunting," and "intricate." The composer often draws his inspiration directly from his personal experiences: for example, the birth of one of his daughters, the death of his father, his spiritual quests, or his connection to nature and concern for the environment. Many prominent ensembles and soloists have performed his music, including the Toronto Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Calgary Philharmonic, Nova Scotia Symphony, Esprit Orchestra, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Amici Ensemble, Gryphon Trio, Miró Quartet, St. Lawrence Quartet, Purcell Quartet, Amherst Saxophone Quartet, violist Rivka Golani, and oboist Lawrence Cherney. His substantial discography includes releases on the CBC, Centrediscs, ATMA, Analekta, Albany, and Summit labels, among others.

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Mr. Chan holds twin undergraduate degrees in electrical engineering and music from the University of British Columbia, where he studied composition with Jean Coulthard. He subsequently received Master of Music and Doctor of Music degrees from Indiana University, where he studied with Bernhard Heiden.



Alice Ho (website: www.alicepingyeeho.com)

Considered "among the most important composers writing in this country" (D. Ariaratnam, *The Record*), Alice Ho is a Hong Kong-born Canadian composer acclaimed for her "distinctly individual" style and "organic flow of imagination."

She has written in many musical genres and received numerous national and international awards, including the 2014 Prince Edward Island Symphony Composers Competition, 2014 Kitchener Waterloo Symphony Friendship Orchestral Composition Competition, 2013 Dora Mavor Moore Award "Outstanding Original Opera" for her opera *Lesson of Da Ji*, 2013 Boston Metro Opera International Composition Competition, K.M. Hunter Artist Award, du Maurier Arts Ltd. Canadian Composers Competition, MACRO International Composition Competition, Luxembourg Sinfonietta International Composition Prize, and International League of Women Composers Competition.

Her work "Glistening Pianos" for two pianos (Centrediscs label) was nominated for the 2015 JUNO Award Classical Composition of the Year.

Often featured at national and international new music festivals such as ISCM World Music Days, Ottawa Chamberfest, Denmark's CRUSH New Music Festival, Asian Music Week in Japan, etc.; her works have also been performed by many major ensembles and soloists including China National Symphony, Polish Radio Choir, Finnish Lapland Chamber Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, the Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Victoria, and Windsor Symphonies, Amsterdam's Neuw Ensemble, Penderecki String Quartet, Toronto's New Music Concerts, Continuum New Music, percussionists Sumire Yoshihara and Beverley Johnston, violist Rivka Golani, and St. John's Duo Concertante. Her discography includes releases on the Centrediscs, Blue Griffin, Electra and Phoenix labels.

Ms. Ho holds a Bachelor of Music degree in composition with high distinction from Indiana University and a Master of Music degree in composition from the University of Toronto. Her teachers have included John Eaton (USA), Brian Ferneyhough (Germany), and John Beckwith (Canada).

Performers *(in alphabetical order by last name)*



Mark Brownell

Mark is a Toronto-based playwright, librettist and co-artistic director of the Pea Green Theatre Group with his wife and partner Sue Miner.

Awards: Nominated for a Governor General's Literary Award for his play, *Monsieur d'Eon*. He also received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for his *libretto Iron Road* (with composer Chan Ka Nin) and a Dora Mavor Moore Award Nomination for *Medici Slot Machine*. In 2010 he was also the recipient of the

infamous Harold Indie Theatre Award.

Other award-winning work includes *Three Men in a Boat* (TATA Lit Fest Mumbai/Next Stage Theatre Festival/Globus Theatre), *Harmonious Interest* (Victoria Symphony), *War of the Clowns* (Factory Theatre / Festival of Clowns), *The Barbeque King* (Globus, Port Stanley Playhouse), *The Martha Stewart Projects* (Buddies in Bad Times), *Playballs* (Solar Stage, Lunchbox Theatre), *High Sticking - Three Period Plays* (Lunchbox Theatre, Toronto and Edmonton Fringes), *The Chevalier St. George* (Tafelmusik), *The Storyteller's Bag* (Mississauga Chamber Ensemble) and *The Weaving Maiden* (Soundstreams).



Vania Chan

Lyric Coloratura Soprano Vania Lizbeth Chan made her Carnegie Hall debut in Weill Recital Hall, winning first prize in the Barry Alexander International Competition, New York. She premiered the role of the *Light Moon* in the Dora Award winning opera "*The Lesson of Da Ji*" (Toronto Masque Theatre). Vania sang in the recording of this opera, which was released by Centre Discs and Naxos.

Roles: *Madame Herz* in "*The Impresario*", *Diane* in "*Hippolyte et Aricie*" (VOICEBOX: OIC), *Princess Mi* in "*The Land of Smiles*" (TOT), the *Ad Exec* in "*Airline Icarus*" (Soundstreams), *Cleopatra* in "*Giulio Cesare*" (HSOF), *Zerbinetta* in "*Ariadne auf Naxos*" (SOLT) She has performed with several companies in the US and Canada. She made her European debut through the "Elysium Between Two Continents: International Summer Academy", in Bernried, Germany. Vania was the winner of the "City of Brandon Award" at the 2008 Eckhardt Gramatté Vocal Competition, for her interpretation of the commissioned cycle, Jocelyn Morlock's *Involuntary Love Songs*, which was broadcast by the Canadian Broadcasting Company. Vania received her M.M. in Classical Voice from the Manhattan School of Music, New York.

Upcoming: Performing in Purcell's "*The Fairy Queen*" with Toronto Masque, "*Paris on Broadway*" with Toronto Operetta Theatre, and the role of *Atalanta* Handel's "*Xerxes*" with New York Opera Forum. www.vaniachan.com

Irvin Chow – Dancer

Irvin Chow began dancing at the Ontario School of Ballet in Toronto and has graduated with a BFA in Dance from York University. He has trained both in Canada and internationally in various dance techniques including ballet, modern, contemporary and contact improvisation. Irvin has also worked for some of Canada's most prominent

choreographers: Sylvie Bouchard, David Earle, Julia Sasso, Santee Smith and William Yong. Recently he has been dancing regularly for the up and coming choreographers Jasmyn Fyffe and Angela Blumberg, for whom he has performed throughout North America.

Mairéad Filgate – Dancer

Mairéad Filgate is a Toronto-based dance artist and graduate of the Etobicoke School of the Arts and the School of Toronto Dance Theatre. She has performed the work of Danny Grossman as a member of the company (2003–2008), Trisha Brown, Tino Sehgal, Bill Coleman, Barb Lindenberg and Kaeja d’Dance, among others. She collaborates regularly with Public Recordings, BoucharDanse, tiger princess dance projects and Dusk Dances. Mairéad creates collaboratively with the Throwdown Collective with whom she won an Audience Choice Award at the dance: made in canada/fait au canada Festival in August 2013. She makes regular sojourns to New York City to study the work of Trisha Brown.

Luke Garwood - Dancer

Luke Garwood trained at l’Ecole Superieure de Danse du Quebec, Canada's National Ballet School and The Hamburg Ballet School. He has performed with Banff Festival Ballet, Toronto Dance Theatre, ProArteDanza, Typecast Dance Company, Signal Theatre and Coleman Lemieux and Company. Independently, Luke has collaborated with choreographers such as Valerie Calam, D.A. Hoskins, Allison Cummings, Tina Fushell, Susie Burpee, Ame Henderson, Heidi Strauss and Christoph Winkler. As a creator and student of OCADU’s Digital Futures program, Garwood has garnered recognition for merging dance with other mediums – this includes receiving the 2013 Soulpepper Multidisciplinary Dance Award and developing an app based, augmented reality piece entitled Ephemeral.



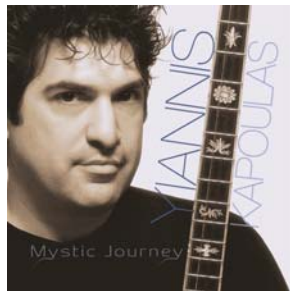
Gauri Guha

Gauri Guha is an established and highly acclaimed professional North Indian classical vocalist and recipient of many grants from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, the Ontario Arts Council and the Canada Council. She has eight albums to her credit.

She is a senior disciple of Pandit A. Kanan and Mrs. Malabika Kanan. Currently, Gauri is studying music under the guidance of Pandit Ajoy Chakraborty. She achieved first class in Sangit Visharad (Bachelor in Music) degree from Bhatkhande Sangit Vidyapith in Lucknow, India. For the last 30 years, Gauri has performed internationally in many prestigious conferences and concerts and had been interviewed in the television, radio and print media in India, Canada, United States and the Caribbean Islands. In 1977, Gauri was sent by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to the Cultural Centre, Guyana, South America, as a Cultural Officer/Music Teacher for three years. During that period, Gauri travelled extensively in Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados, Jamaica, Suriname and Venezuela.

Gauri is a regular teacher at the Sangit Academy, Brussels, Belgium. In December 2006, she sang in a movie called "The Hindu Tomb" at Lille Festival, France. A CD was released during the festival. In July 2007, Gauri taught Indian music at a seminar in Neufchateau, Belgium, which is the biggest dance and music seminar of Europe. From 1997 to 2003, Gauri taught workshops and served as a board member of the Worlds of Music Toronto (WOMT) organization. Gauri has also taught music classes at M-DO, the Toronto Tabla Ensemble. Gauri also served on the panels of judges for Indo-Canadian Idol and Toronto Sanskriti Sanstha (TSS) musical competitions. In September 2007, she delivered a speech in "Spirituality in Music" and performed at the Toronto International Indo-Jazz Festival. Gauri is on the evaluation committee of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Calgary, Alberta. She has received felicitations from the Federation of Bangladeshi Association of North America (FOBANA), the Association of Women of India in Canada (AWIC) and BAPS-Swaminarayan Temple Ladies Group for her contributions in the field of music in Canada. In spite of Gauri's serious passion and total commitment towards music, she holds a Master degree in Literature, Business Management degree and a full-time senior management position in Scotiabank. Gauri is one of the registered members of the Speakers' Bureau of Dominion Institute Passages to Canada and regularly delivers motivational speeches in high and middle schools of the Toronto Board of Education.

She also delivered speeches at the Revenue Canada and University of Toronto in the occasion of Asian Heritage Month Festival. Recently, Gauri was a guest speaker at the Sales Rally of Scotiabank.



Yiannis Kapoulas

Multiple Award Winner, World Music & Multi-Instrumentalist. Yiannis is a unique artist in the World-Instrumental, Musical Genre. Award-winning multi-instrumentalist, Yiannis Kapoulas is an artist that continues to break new ground with his infectious blend of ethno-fusion, World Instrumentals, a unique sound that runs the gamut of influences from Latin, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Jazz, Classical and Funk. Yiannis performs a multitude of exotic stringed instruments with agility, speed, precision and a passion that has been awing music fans at countless concerts, festivals and performances across Canada since his debut Canadian release of his debut self-

titled CD in 2010. Yiannis has since released his sophomore CD titled *Mystic Journey* documenting his musical journey with his signature, exotic, international sounds and instruments. Yiannis features his two signature instruments, the Ethno III Electric and the Ethno III Acoustic on both his CDs. Experience Yiannis Kapoulas' music, instrumentation and musical journey at www.yktunes.com



Ron Korb

Flutist Ron Korb has been travelling and collecting indigenous woodwinds from Europe, Asia, and South America for years. His compositions are steeped in the diverse cultural traditions and experiences of his travels and his upbringing in Canada.

After graduating from University of Toronto, he began composing for Hong Kong pop stars like Alan Tam, Roman Tam, and Yvonne Lau with songs that reached Gold and Double Platinum sales. He has over thirty critically acclaimed releases and reissues in twenty countries on various record labels. The albums are on many top favourite lists and legendary singers in Asia have made cover versions of his music. He has toured extensively throughout Europe, Canada, The USA, Central America, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Mainland China (Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Wuxi, Suzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong).

Ron has given solo performances twice at The Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. The Glastonbury Festival in England and also The National Theatre in Panama City, The Shanghai International Spring Music Festival, The Century Theatre in Beijing, World Art Stage in Edinburgh, Arnhem Cathedral in Holland and Expo 2005 in Nagoya and Madison Square Gardens in New York. He has also shared stages with Peter Gabriel, Jane Siberry, Tia Carrere, Liona Boyd, The Yardbirds, Olivia Newton John, Cesaria Evora and Dadawa. Ron has performed for Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister of Canada, Princess Takamado of Japan, Princess Bopha Devi of Cambodia, and was featured on the World Youth Day recording for Pope John Paul.

Ron was a featured soloist in The Lord of the Rings Symphony at Roy Thomson Hall and also played as a soloist a song he composed accompanied by the Toronto Symphony at the concert for the 2008 Olympic Bid. Ron has played on dozens of movie soundtracks by various composers. The films include Ang Lee's *The Ice Storm* and *Ride with the Devil*, Atom Egoyan's *Exotica*, *Sweet Hereafter* and *Felicia's Journey*, Mira Nair's *Kama Sutra* John Woo's *Blackjack* and the 3D IMAX film *Space Station* narrated by Tom Cruise. Other credits include *The Snow Walker*, *Being Julia* and *Merchant/Ivory's The White Countess* starring Ralph Fiennes, Vanessa and Lynn Redgrave. Last year Ron played on an Emmy winning episode of *World Without End* by Golden Globe and Academy Award winning composer Mychael Danna.

Ron's last album *Europa* has won the Global Music Award for Excellence in Composition and Best Instrumental Solo performance, Album of the Year and Best Album Design. It was also a finalist at the 2013 International Acoustic Music Awards. Ron Korb represented Canada at the 2014 China Shanghai International Arts Festival's Canadian Culture Week along with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Montreal Symphony. Ron's sold out concert at Shanghai Concert Hall was voted the audience choice by the fans. (www.ronkorb.com)



Chi-Ping Lau

Chi-Ping Lau, a choreographer, dancer and dance educator, is the founder and Artistic Director of Chi-Ping Dance Group. She is a graduate of the Laban Centre, University of London, and is a member of the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing, the Canadian Alliance of Dance Artists, the Canadian Dance Teachers' Association and a former director of Community Folk Art Council of Metro Toronto. Chi-Ping studied Chinese dance under the renowned dance artist, Sai-Fun Ng, and ballet and national folk dances under Stephen Kwok and Pearl Chan. While in Hong

Kong, Chi-Ping taught dance instructors and instructed in dance programmes at universities. She also had been invited to participate in special training workshops and conferences for overseas Chinese dance professionals offered by the Ministry of Cultural of China since 1993.



The Chi-Ping Dance Group is a non-profit organization founded in 1984. Chi-Ping dancers have been involved in multicultural festivals and government ceremonies in Canada and abroad. Chi-Ping elite dancers represented Canada in the International Folklore Festival in Mexico in August 2000. They were also selected to participate in the Root-Seeking Summer Camp 2002 by the Foreign Affairs Department of China.

In 2004, Chi-Ping dancers had been invited to perform in Macau, Hong Kong and Zhong Shan, China. They received tremendous great comments. The Chi-Ping dancers won countless awards for its excellent choreography and performances in national and North American dance competitions.

Municipal and provincial authorities have recognized the members of Chi-Ping Dance Group for their outstanding volunteering achievements and participations in numerous fundraising events for several charitable organizations. The Chi-Ping Dance Group has also hosted numerous successful gala shows and was cited as only one Cultural Group of the Year 2000 by the City of Toronto.



Xiaoqiu Lin

An excellent Erhu performer, learnt Erhu / music at age of 5 and obtained unique and necessary yet valuable performing skills from various famous Erhu players, especially from Erhu Master performer Huifen Min who taught and took her as one of her few well-selected students. After graduation as a Bachelor of Arts from Shanghai Conservatory of Music majoring Erhu, she had been being employed by Shanghai Folk Philharmonic Orchestra for more than 20 years and later seated as vice or chief Erhu performer in the Orchestra. During this 20 years, she performed with the Orchestra for variety of important events such as two times in Vienna's Grand Golden Hall to celebrate new years, performance trip in Germany, Belgium, France, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, special concerts for former chairman Zheming Jiang and former US president George Bush. In the light of her excellent performance and rich stage experience, Shanghai Radio Station

made special reports on her Erhu performance several times and she was also asked to record her Erhu solo album "Seeing Each Other". She participated in many Concerts playing Erhu solo as special guests of Autumn Zheng Concert and 9th Anniversary Gala Concert by Oversea Chinese Music Society, also performed together with famous flutist Ron Korb in 2008 and 2010 Toronto Chinese Spring Festival Gala and East Meet West Concerts several times with Ron Korb. Her performance is exquisite and mild with sweet timbre. She has been being an excellent Erhu teacher for more than 25 years in China and Toronto.



Sue Miner

Sue Miner is a director versed in classical, music theatre, new work, opera and puppetry. Credits include *Sunday in the Park with George* (Sheridan) *James and the Giant Peach* (YPT) *The Pub Operas* and *Opera Briefs* (Tapestry New Opera) *The Tempest* (Canadian Stage) *The Fantasticks* (Red Barn) *Orphee and the Magic Harp* (Jeunesses Musicales) and *Le Chevalier St. Georges* (Tafelmusik) As co-artistic director of Pea Green Theatre Group with her husband Mark Brownell she recently directed *Three Men in a Boat* which continues to tour Canada after performing in Mumbai, India in 2014 and was nominated for two of Ottawa's Capitol Critics Circle Awards for outstanding production and direction. Sue has garnered several Dora nominations, been thrice touted as one of Toronto's Top-10 theatre artists by NOW Magazine and along with Mark received a Harold Award for "Outstanding Contribution to the Toronto Performing Arts Scene."



Yvonne Ng

Born and raised in Singapore, Yvonne Ng (graduate of York University, Canada) is choreographer, presenter, arts educator and artistic director of princess productions (since 1996), which houses tiger princess dance projects and the dance: made in canada/fait au canada Festival. The company's repertoire includes Yvonne's choreographed works and commissioned works. Yvonne has created original roles for choreographers such as Bill James, José Navas, Peter Chin, Dominique Dumais, Kevin O'Day (National Theatre Mannheim Ballett), Stephanie Skura and Tedd Robinson. tiger princess dance projects has toured to Singapore, Ireland, Italy, Germany, Australia, China, Canada and the USA.

Yvonne is a certified Open Source Forms© (Stephanie Skura/U.S.A.), Partners for Youth Empowerment Creative Facilitator (Level 1 & 2), C-I Training™, Senior Fitness(CCAA) and Ashtanga Yoga teacher. She has taught at and created work for Ryerson and York University, and the Theatre Department at Juniata College, Pennsylvania and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and La Salle College of the Arts, Singapore and currently, at University of Waterloo's Dept of Drama and Speech Communications.

Yvonne is currently based Toronto. She is a recipient of the K.M. Hunter Artist Award, New Pioneers Arts Award, Chalmers Arts Fellowship, Soulpepper's Community Artist Award and the Ontario Premier's Award for Excellence in the Arts – New Talent. In 2000, she was honoured with a Dora Mavor Moore Award for best performance and has received multiple nominations. Ng was the artistic director of Series 8:08 (1994 - 2015) a dance service organization that supports professional dance development. www.princessproductions.ca



The Chinese Collective Arts Association (CCAA)

After years of being trained in Chinese Dance together, a group of dancers from Chi-Ping Dance Group gathered to share their passion for the Chinese cultural arts and promote it to the community. Led by their enthusiasm for dance, music, theatre and hosting functions and events, the Chinese Collective Arts Association (CCAA) plays a prominent role in providing the public with a taste of Chinese culture in their own unique and modernized ways.



Anson Wong

Anson Wong is a recent graduate of the University of Toronto's bachelor of music program. There, he studied percussion with John Rudolph and Beverley Johnston. He enjoys playing a wide variety of repertoire, especially jazz and contemporary music, and loves to explore all the different sounds that percussion has to offer. Currently, Anson is a freelance performer around the Toronto area.



Wen Zhao

Wen Zhao is an internationally acclaimed pipa virtuoso, has presented numerous solos and concerto concerts throughout Canada. She teaches Pipa at the world music centre of Royal Conservatory of Music, and York University in Toronto. Zhao has toured at major ethnic music festivals worldwide; including 2008 and 2010 Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong international Festival, Montreal Baroque festival, Quebec Festival, Ottawa ChamberFest, Vancouver Early Music festival, Switzerland international Festival, Arts in Action Festival, U.K and Ireland, played solo performance at Queen Elizabeth Hall in London, UK, Toronto Roy Thomson hall, Beijing Forbidden City concert hall, ShangHai Oriental Art Centre and Hong Kong City Hall and other major venues across Canada and the US. She is especially honored to be one of the featured solo artists for the CBC award-winning documentary film *The Four Seasons Mosaic*. Zhao has collaborated with some world's top Western orchestras, and has played the world and Canada premieres, including the touring project *The Four Seasons* concert with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra; Pipa and Strings with the Toronto Symphony; Marco Polo concert and the Lute Fest concert with the Toronto Consort. Her masterful playing deeply impressed the audience and was highly acclaimed by the media: BBC, CBC, OMNITV, Beijing TV and Hong Kong Phoenix TV have all broadcasted her solo performances. The Toronto Star described her as *"a virtuoso player who displayed her dexterity and percussive skills on the Pipa."*

Born in Beijing, Wen began to study the pipa at the age of seven, eventually winning the first prize at Beijing Youth National Instrument Competition in 1985. After completing China Conservatory of Music study with the renowned pipa master Wang Fan Di, she continued her musical career in England, performing and teaching Chinese music throughout the U.K..



Gene Wu

Canadian baritone Gene Wu has been seen on many stages around Canada performing a wide variety of musical repertoire.

Most recently, Mr. Wu's performances include Montano in the Calgary Opera production of *Otello*, and Mr. Gobineau in *The Medium* with the Highlands Opera Studio.

Other operatic highlights include Silvio in PAGLIACCI (Opera Lyra Ottawa), Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia* (Opera on the Avalon), Antonio in *Le Nozze Di Figaro* (Opera Hamilton), Douglas D'Angus in *La Donna Del Lago* (Opera In Concert) and Ford in FALSTAFF (Summer Opera Lyric Theatre). In addition, he has been heard as the Musiklehrer & Harlekin in *Ariadne Auf Naxos* and as Figaro in *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia* (Toronto Summer Music Festival), and has appeared as the Speaker in *The Magic Flute* (Vancouver Opera), Emilio Picariello in *Filumena*, and the title role in *Le Nozze Di Figaro*, both with the Banff Centre. Mr. Wu has also sung in the Canadian premieres of the children's opera *Naomi's Road* (Vancouver Opera) and *Dead Man Walking* (Calgary Opera).

Info. from <http://www.micartists.com/gene-wu/>