

Composer YANG Jing is also an internationally renowned Pipa soloist.

She writes music for different formations: Western symphony orchestras; modern music ensembles; Choir, theatre, film, mixed Western and Asian instrumental & vocal ensembles; big Band & Jazz ensembles, and multimedia settings. Her works have been played in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, China, and Japan in concerts and festivals.

She was born on the south bank of the Yellow River in December 1963. It was at a time when the so-called Cultural Revolution, had a major impact on her childhood. She began musical training at an early age by a kind of self-taught pipa playing. Such a searching spirit supported her musical development.

At the age of six, she was attracted to various musical instruments and began to play the pipa with an adult instrument. Due to her good musical memory, she played by listening and imitating. At the age of 10, she taught pipa students who were older than herself, by using her playing methods and scores.

By the age of 12, she passed the examination and entered the Henan Opera Music School. In 1976, she got a job as a pipa player in the ensemble of the Henan Opera Company until 1982, when she moved to Shanghai to study. In addition to her compulsory bachelor's degree, she studied solo pipa playing, composition, and traditional music research. 1986, in her final study year, her works "Nine Jade Chines" (1983), and "Disclosure"(1984) won the New Music Composition Prize and she received the Best Solo Pipa Performance Prize. In the same year, her compositions became the pipa Solo performing Bachelor teaching pieces for the Shanghai and Central Music Conservatories of China.

From 1986, she worked for 12 years as the pipa soloist with the China National Traditional Orchestra in Beijing. During this time, she studied with all the pipa masters in China and worked as a 'cultural ambassador' to present Chinese music in overseas concerts. She composed and founded the first traditional Chinese instrumental quartet '*Qing Mei Jing Yue*'. In 1996, the organizers of the German Music Festival heard a concert by Yang Jing at the Beijing Concert Hall, and her quartet became the first independent Chinese music group to be invited to perform at a European music festival, in the summer of 1998 in Ingolstadt, Germany.

In 1997, YANG received a scholarship from the Japan International Artists Exchange Fund and studied composition and festival management with Minoru Miki in Tokyo for two years. In 1998, she worked with Japan Arts Co. (among other international concert agencies) and music festivals, Opera Theaters, and Orchestras to develop her career as a freelancer soloist worldwide.

Yang Jing has brought the pipa to many of the world's most prestigious stages. Her concert tours over the past 38 years have taken her throughout Asia, Europe, North America, Africa, and the Middle East, performing at venues such as Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Carnegie Hall in New York, the Barbican Centre in London, the Golden Hall in Vienna and the St. Louis Opera Theatre. 1993 her First Prize awarded work "Dance along the Old Silk Road" became the compulsory piece for the China National Pipa competition in 1994, It was the theme piece for her concert tours and music festivals in Japan from 1999 to 2010.

Her regular concert tours in Japan and England have won her many music fans, resulting in fan clubs in Japan and England. In 1999, a community Hall in Shropshire, England, was

named after Yang Jing. In 2000 she received honorary Citizenship from Utsunomiya City, Japan. In Tokyo, she even gave two solo recitals on the same day in the same concert Hall (Kioi Hall in Tokyo) with different programs, mostly her compositions.

From 1996 to 2011, Ms. Yang worked as a guest professor for master semester courses at many universities in the United States, Asia, and Switzerland. From 2013 to 2015, she completed another Master's degree herself, in New Music, Composition and Theory, and Jazz Theory and Arrangement at the Bern University of the Arts, Switzerland.

Yang Jing's technical and musical inventions in her scores, as well as her live improvisation concerts, bear witness to her constant expansion of the world of harmony. "Yang Jing on the pipa is indeed a virtuoso of Jascha Heifetz-like quality..." (The Sunday Telegraph 1998). "Yang Jing's music combines a deep cultural background and an extreme power of musical understanding with virtuoso technique. Bursting with creativity, she celebrates the arrival of a new era in music. (Music Weekly 1996)

She has premiered numerous works by composers from different cultural backgrounds and performed her works in solo concerts, and concerts with Western symphony orchestras, choirs, and operas. She has been enthusiastically acclaimed by music critics and audiences. Besides the Pipa, she plays Guqin, Guzheng, percussion, and other instruments according to the concert needs.

Yang Jing is equally comfortable performing solo concerts, chamber music performances, or concerts with orchestras, and frequently appears in jazz and improvisatory settings as well. Such as in duos with legendary drummer Max Roach, Pierre Favre, saxophonist Arnie Lawrence, and electric guitarist Christy Doran as well as with jazz ensembles like the quartet 'Different Song'.

Among others, her works for String quartet and pipa «Singing Strings – Identity» in CD and Sheet Music Books are circling worldwide.

Her concerts have always featured world premieres. Her virtuoso performances dazzled audiences with the never-before-heard sounds of her pipa. "No sweet chinoiserie but Chinese magic, no philosophical bulldozing on what music is and what it is not". "To be 'open for everything', as Yang Jing phrased it, finds its essence in the realm where tones meet each other naturally." D. Schnetzer in Neue Zuger Zeitung, Switzerland (2000).

She has curated different music series in Switzerland. and has founded and co-founded ensembles.

For example,

- «Asia Ensemble» Asian instrumental soloists Ensemble 2000 in Tokyo;
- with «Yang Jing and Yui Ensemble» (Tokyo), she won a prize at the International Chamber Music Competition 2002 in Osaka, Japan.
- Music Festival «Hokuto International Music Festival» in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan from 2005 to 2010; during the festival «Coexistence» she premiered her works regularly and wrote for different formations.
- Jazz quartet «Different Song» 2005 in Switzerland
- mixed ensemble «European Chinese Ensemble» «Ensemble New Elements» 2007 in Switzerland
- «Tage für Musik zwischen den Welten» in Aarau and Zürich from 2013 until 2022.

Very often, instead of just one piece, she had to write for a whole concert program. For example:

«Erzählungen vom Fluss»;

«Unter einem hellen Sternenhimmel»;

«Berg und Fluss»;

«Singing Strings – Identity»;

«Pipa Moments»;

«klingende Zeit – Konzert mit Multimedia in neun Sätzen»

etc.

After a successful international Concert Pipa solo career and bandleader, YANG Jing turned to contemporary modernism, where her music draws from her concept of creating music by using different methods. Rooted in the millennium-old East and West traditional music, she grows on a vast amalgam of musical history. The consequences of this are sometimes musical poems, sometimes powerful unheard-of sounds. It is characterized by diverse stylistic means, and the structure and sensory effects bear the characteristics of the composer, allowing different creative means to be integrated into the same musical work, forming an integral part of 21st-century music.

Her voice is the music with which she expresses her thoughts about current society, life energy, and relationships with people and nature.

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Name: YANG, Jing 杨静 / Creation role: Author, Composer

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