

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA

McINTIRE DEPARTMENT of

**music**

*presents*

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# Chamber Music Series

I-Jen Fang, Percussion

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Sunday, March 26, 2023

3:30 pm

Old Cabell Hall

University of Virginia

# Program

*Ambient Resonances (Echoes of Time and Place)* (1994)

Peter Klatzow  
(1945-2021)

*The Bones of Chuang Tzu* (2002-2022)

Christopher Deane  
(1957-2021)  
ed. by I-Jen Fang

~ Intermission ~

夢紅樓 (*Dreaming of the Red Chamber*) (2010/2023)

Chien-Hui Hung  
(b. 1965)  
ad. by Ming-Hui Kuo

*Adventure on Mt. Hebuan* (2021)

Judith Shatin  
(b. 1949)

*Calienta* (2009)

Emmanuel Séjourné  
(b. 1961)

# Program Notes

The first half of today's program is to celebrate two very influential percussion composers who passed away in 2021, Peter Klatzow and Christopher Deane. I-Jen studied with Christopher Deane at the University of North Texas (UNT) for her Doctoral of Musical Arts degree in percussion performance. While at UNT, I-Jen also studied and performed one of Peter Klatzow's marimba solos, *Dances of Earth and Fire*, at one of her doctoral degree recitals.

## ***Ambient Resonances (Echoes of Time and Place) (1994)***

Commissioned and premiered by RE:Percussions in St. Pauls Concert Hall, Huddersfield, UK, this two movement work by Klatzow introduces the sound and mixture of the Marimba and Vibraphone. The first movement fluctuates between imitative and unison rhythmic statements by the performers. The second movement employs an ABA form with the A sections reflecting a chorale style.

One of South Africa's most influential composers, Peter Klatzow, was a victim of the COVID pandemic and died on December 29, 2021. Over the years, the style of his work had moved from the avant-garde to neo-romanticism, and he found particular inspiration in the poetry of the /Xam and other indigenous peoples, as well as in composing for the marimba. He won many competitions, such as the prestigious Helgard Steyn Prize twice and the Royal Philharmonic Prize; he wrote a book on South African composers; and he was asked in 1991 to be an interim CEO of the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra by David de Villiers, then board Chairman. Amongst his major works are a full length ballet on Hamlet; music for ballets on Drie Diere and Vier Gebede, concertos for various solo instruments, piano, clarinet, organ, marimba, and a double Concerto for flute and marimba. Klatzow loved the marimba, and wrote several pieces for recital or with orchestra.

## ***Bones of Chuang Tzu (2002-2022)***

*"The Bones of Chuang Tzu (Prelude No. 5 for Timpani)"* by Christopher Deane was premiered on April 14, 2003, at the DMA recital of I-Jen Fang. A birthday gift from Deane, the composition was completed just prior to Fang's 22nd birthday. This effort was particularly special, as both the composer and performer share the same birth date. Inspiration for the piece came from Fang's native ethnicity and

Deane's knowledge of and enthusiasm for Chinese literature. *The Bones of Chuang Tzu* is based on a Chinese poem written by poet, literary scholar, astronomer, mathematician, and artist Chang Heng (78-139). The extended technique is used to create the sound of bones clicking. Throughout the composition, the performer explores a variety of sounds while using different combinations and manipulations of the mallets, shafts, butts, rims, and heads."

— Christopher Deane

The piece remains unpublished and the version of today's performance was finalized and edited by I-Jen as a last wish from Deane before his passing. The background voice was re-recorded and manipulated with the help of Becky Brown, a CCT graduate student at UVA, while I-Jen read the poem, *The Bones of Chuang Tzu* by Chang Heng.

Christopher Deane served as a Professor of Music in Percussion at the University of North Texas for 21 years. He also served as the Timpanist for the East Texas Symphony for six years and Principal Percussionist with the Las Colinas Symphony for eight. He frequently performed as timpanist with the Dallas Symphony, and as a percussionist with the Dallas Opera. In 2019, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Percussive Arts Society. While living in North Carolina, Chris served as the Principal Timpanist of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra for nine years and performed percussion with the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra for ten. He also performed with numerous large ensembles, including the Boston Pops, Minnesota Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony, Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and the Utah Symphony. He was a founding member of the Philidor Percussion Group. Deane was an award-winning composer and wrote over 80 pieces. Some of his music has become standard literature internationally.

### 夢紅樓 (*Dreaming of the Red Chamber*) (2010/2023)

*Dreaming of the Red Chamber* was derived from the classic Chinese novel *Dream of the Red Chamber* by Cao Xueqin, written between 1749 to 1759, during the Qing Dynasty. The composition was inspired by the poem *Burying Flowers* by Daiyu Lin, one of the main female protagonists in the story. This character is beautiful, fragile, and emotional. She is involved in a love triangle with two other main characters and ultimately dies of a broken heart, forming the best-known plot line of the novel. Four sections are emblematic of Daiyu's path to a tragic life: her destiny, her unspoken love with Baoyu Jia (the male protagonist), her sorrow over fallen flowers, and her mortality. This work is dedicated to Taiwanese marimbaist, Dr. Pei-Ching Wu."

— Ming-Hui Kuo

Chien-Hui Hung is the composer in residence of the JU Percussion Group in Taiwan. She studied composition with Ma, Shiu-Long and Lu, Yen while studying percussion with Ju, Tzong-Ching and Kuo, Kwang-Yuan. Hung furthered her studies in France from 1987 to 1995. She studied composition with Yoshihisa Taira and received the Diplome Superieur of Composition. Hung has studied composition with Alain Bancquart and Paul Mefano as well. In November 1997, Hung presented All Hung's Music in concert at the Taiwan National Concert Hall. Her composition "Les Douze Lunes Du Serpent" (2001) was a collaborative project with the French composer Francois Bernard Mache. The work, commissioned by Les Percussions de Strasbourg, was premiered at Les 38e Rugissants in Grenoble, France in 2001. The composition "Mulan" (2010 and 2013) was a successful integration of percussion, Beijing Opera and tap dance, which created a new performing style – Percussion theatre, and took the percussion to a new high level. "Mulan" was invited to be performed at the Chekov International Arts Festival in Moscow, Russia in 2017. The "Beauty of Gong," her composition in 2015, was also well received by the audience at home and abroad. Her 2016 review video clips have been shared over 860 times on Facebook.

### ***Adventure on Mt. Hehuan (2021)***

*Adventure on Mt. Hehuan* (Mountain of Joy in Chinese) was inspired by, and is dedicated to, the brilliant percussionist I-Jen Fang, my colleague and friend at the University of Virginia, and my teacher during a fascinating two-year exploration of percussion instruments. While originally inspired to create the piece by an exquisite untitled mountain painting by I-Jen's late father, one morning, having dreamt of these paintings, I decided to look up mountains in Taiwan, where I-Jen was born, and I happened on a beautiful image of Mt. Hehuan. When I learned that the name meant 'Mountain of Joy,' I realized I had the title. I scored the piece for solo bass drum after exploring its extended timbral potential with Ms. Fang and developed the piece with attention to such details as the types of mallets, the spots on the mallets where they connect with the drum, as well as the locations on the drum.

The decision to include optional interactive electronics grew from the further timbral opportunities that these afford, creating a new world of timbral shading, as well as the additional performance adventure of the duet between the acoustic and digital elements. Rather than choose between them, I created both options. The interactive electronics draw on a MAX program created in consultation with me by composer/technologist Maxwell

Tfirn. *Adventure on Mt. Hebuan* speaks to the fundamental joy I find in collaboration and the journeys such exploration inspires. *Adventure on Mt. Hebuan* was premiered at the TechnoSonics Festival at the University of Virginia by I-Jen Fang and myself.”

— Judith Shatin

Today’s performance will be the Virginia premiere of the solo version without interactive electronics.

Composer Judith Shatin is renowned for her richly imagined music that seamlessly spans acoustic and digital realms. Called “highly inventive on every level” by The Washington Post, her music combines an adventurous approach to timbre with dynamic narrative design and a keen awareness of the sonic landscape of modern life. She draws on fascinations with literature, the visual arts, the sounding world, and music’s social and communicative power to craft a clear, direct musical language that resonates with performers and audiences worldwide. Shatin’s extensive catalog includes chamber, choral and orchestral music, as well as electronic, electroacoustic, and multimedia pieces. Her compositions are performed in concert halls and at festivals such as Carnegie Hall, The Concertgebouw, The Kennedy Center, Aspen, BAM Next Wave, and Moscow Autumn. She has been commissioned by organizations and acclaimed ensembles, including the Barlow Endowment, the Fromm Foundation, Kronos Quartet, Da Capo Chamber Players, and The American Composer’s Orchestra. Shatin is currently William R. Kenan Jr. Professor Emerita at the University of Virginia, where she founded the Virginia Center for Computer Music.

### ***Calienta* (2009)**

Emmanuel Séjourné has achieved a special position in the world of percussion. His base, from his own training to his conspicuously active life as a performer, composer and teacher, has been the Strasbourg Conservatory. He entered that institution at age 15 as a pupil of Jean Batigne, the respected founder and director of Les Percussions de Strasbourg, and received the gold medal in percussion there in 1980. Four years later he became a professor of mallet percussion at the same institution, and at the conservatory. At present he is head of its percussion department. He has served as academic advisor to the Ministry of Culture and collaborated with distinguished colleagues in concerts, recitals and recordings of music in a variety of styles, ranging from jazz to traditional forms. In 1981 Séjourné and the saxophonist Philippe Geiss founded a group called Noco Music for the performance of new music, ranging from improvised jazz to more broadly inclusive styles of contemporary concert works.

Subsequently he took part in other ensembles, such as Accroche-Note, in introducing new music by various composers, and traveled to all parts of the world on his energetic mission, not only performing — his own chosen instruments, on which he has achieved an exalted status, remain the marimba and the vibraphone — but lecturing and holding master classes. As a composer, he has received awards for his incidental music for staged dramas, as well as musical comedies, film scores, and ballets. Séjourné has taken part in numerous international festivals, several of which have commissioned works from him. One such work, the one performed today, was commissioned by duo Berimba for guitar and marimba, and later Séjourné arranged the guitar part to be played on vibraphone. He also made an arrangement for vibraphone and marimba with percussion ensemble.

— adapted from Notes by Richard Freed, accessed March 02, 2023

# About the Performers



Described as an “intrepid percussionist” by *Fanfare Magazine*, **I-JenFang** has a career as a solo performer, chamber musician, orchestral player, and teacher. She joined the faculty of the UVA Department of Music at the University of Virginia in 2005 and serves as the Principal Timpanist and Percussionist of the Charlottesville Symphony.

As a soloist, I-Jen has performed as a marimba soloist in Taiwan, U.S., Austria, France, Hungary, Romania, and South Africa. She was also the featured marimba soloist with the Charlottesville Symphony in 2006 and 2010. As a chamber musician, I-Jen has performed or recorded with artists such as

Keiko Abe, William Cahn, Christopher Deane, Mark Ford, Mike Mainieri, Ed Smith, Michael Spiro, Ki Midiyanto, Muryanto, Nanik Wenton, Nyoman Wenton, EcoSono Ensemble, Cantata Profana, Attacca Percussion Group, DaCapo Chamber Players, and Victory Hall Opera. She is also a founding member of the Piedmont Duo with Ayn Balijs. The duo explores the sonic possibilities of the viola and percussion. She has appeared in the Staunton Music Festival, Charlottesville Chamber Music Festival, Wintergreen Festival, Heritage Theater Festival, Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC), and Regional PAS Day of Percussion.

An advocate of New Music, I-Jen was the director of the UVA New Music Ensemble for 14 years. The ensemble collaborated with composer/improviser George Lewis, flutist Claire Chase, and performed for composers such as Phillip Glass and Christian Wolff. She has also commissioned and/or premiered works by Jon Bellona, Matt Boehler, Becky Brown, Matthew Burtner, Alex Christie, Cameron Church, Ted Coffey, Kevin Davis, Christopher Deane, Erik DeLuca, Aurie Hsu, Sarah O'Halloran, Chris Peck, Leah Reid, Judith Shatin, Brian Simalchik, Ed Smith, D.J. Sparr, Max Tfirm, Zachary Wadsworth, Kristina Warren, and Michele Zaccagnini.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, I-Jen began her musical education at age six on the piano. Taking up percussion at the age of nine, she came to the



United States at age fifteen to pursue her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Percussion Performance at Carnegie Mellon University. She received her Master of Music degree from Northwestern University and her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas, where she served as a teaching fellow. I-Jen is an Innovative Percussion and Marimba One artist.



**Dr. Ming-Hui Kuo** was an intern performing member of Ju Percussion Group (JPG) from 1993 to 2002. During her time with JPG, she performed over 500 concerts and hundreds of music related activities including annual seasonal concerts at Taiwan National Concert Hall, JPG Music Theatre such as – Dream • Wind Bell I, II, and Music Theatre – See the Sound, the Musical “Cyrano de Bergerac” with Godot Theatre Company, the Annual JPG Children’s Concert Tour, the Annual Lantern Festival hosted by Taipei City Government and Kaohsiung City Government, Keelung

International Modern Music Festival, Taipei-Seoul Exchange Concert, Taipei International Percussion Convention. Her international performances with JPG include China, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong-Kong, Macao, Spain, Hungary, Australia, Canada, and the United States. In 1999, Kuo was a co-founder of the Butterfly Percussion Quartet with Pei-Ching Wu. In 2011, Kuo co-founded XPlorium Chamber Ensemble with Dr. Nathan Nabb. XPlorium Ensemble has been invited for performances at the 2011 WASBE Conference and 20th Chiayi City International Band Festival.

Kuo has been an active clinician, chamber ensemble performer, and solo performer since 2007. Events include Percussion Art Society (PAS) International Convention, PAS Kentucky Day of Percussion, Indiana Percussion Association Clinic Day, Music of the 21st Century Chamber Concerts, Indiana Music Education Association Conference Day of Percussion, The North American Saxophone Alliance Biennial Conference, clinic tours in Taiwan and numerous Midwest colleges and high schools.

Dr. Ming-Hui Kuo also appears on many CD projects with JPG, the MSU Faculty Holiday CD, Dr. William Mann’s Trombone album, and

XPlorium Ensemble. Her composition *Ethan's Road* for solo marimba has been published through Tapspace Publications in The Blue Book – Volume 3. Ming-Hui proudly endorses Yamaha, Innovative Percussion, Remo Inc., and Zildjian Cymbals.

Dr. Kuo studied with Dr. Pei-Ching Wu, principal of JPG and with Mr. Tzong-Ching Ju, the Founder and Artistic Director of JPG before pursuing the master's degree. Kuo earned her Master of Music degree at Morehead State University in 2003. In 2012, she earned the Doctor of Musical Arts in Percussion Performance at the University of Kentucky as a student of Jim Campbell.

## Upcoming Percussion Events

**A Night of Percussion - featuring guest artist John Lane  
with the UVA Percussion Ensemble**

Saturday, April 15, 2023

8:00 pm, Old Cabell Hall

**The Innocents - featuring Allen Otte and John Lane**

Sunday, April 16, 2023

6:00 pm, Brooks Hall

# Next in our UVA Chamber Music Series

## UVA Chamber Music Series - Mixed Chamber Ensembles

Sunday, April 16, 2023

3:30 pm, Old Cabell Hall

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### *Special Thanks To:*

The Department of Music, Ayn Balija, Becky Brown, Ben Chen, Jack Engel, Hayden French, Jacob Lovelace, Roman Ramirez, Mikayla Tayok, and all the students, interns, and volunteers who made this performance possible.

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