

Canada 150-Asian Heritage Month Authors' Readings + Concert

2017

Bios of Authors and Artists

Opening Address



Mr. Justin Poy is the Honourary Patron of Asian Heritage Month, CFACI and a long time supporter of the Chinese Canadian community both here in Toronto and in Vancouver. He is a Director on the Board of the SickKids Foundation and The Walrus Foundation. Aside from charitable projects, he has been further promoting Chinese contemporary visual art and performance over the past 8 years, in Canada. His community involvement has earned him the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals among other community recognition.

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 Ping Yee Ho 何冰頤

(Photo by Bo Huang)

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 2016 Louis Applebaum Composers Award, 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. A recording of her opera “Lesson of Da Ji” was released by Centrediscs in November, 2015.

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 including China National Symphony, Polish Radio Choir, Finnish Lapland Chamber Orchestra, Esprit Orchestra, the Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Victoria, Kitchen Waterloo, and Windsor Symphonies, Amsterdam’s Neuw Ensemble, Italy’s Trivella Piano Duo, Penderecki String Quartet, Toronto’s New Music Concerts, Continuum New Music, Torq, and Soundstreams. Her discography includes releases on the Centrediscs, Blue Griffin, Electra and Phoenix labels.

She is a noted classical pianist, and makes her home in Toronto.

Alice Ho’s website: www.alicepingyeeho.com



Authors and Performers (in alphabetical order by last name)

Mushtari Afroz (Dancer)



Mushtari Afroz is the founder of the group Kathak Bandi. Recipient of Canada Council for the Arts grant and Milapfest, UK grant Mushtari has been advancing her training in both Lucknow and Jaipur Gharana of Kathak in Canada under guru Ms. Saveeta Sharma and Mr. Hemant Panwar who are both graduates of the prestigious Kathak institution ‘Kathak Kendra’ in Delhi, India. Mushtari has also been receiving extensive training in Western Contemporary dance forms under various instructors. To expand her vocabulary of dance she has also taken workshops with some of the leading choreographers in Canada, UK, Germany and India including but not limited to Pandit Birju Maharaj in Kathak, Ms. Aditi Mangaladas in Kathak, Ms. Nahid Siddiqui in Kathak, Sashar Zarif in Sufi-Shamanic dance, Denise Fujiwara in Japanese Butoh dance, Yumiko Yoshioka in Butoh, Sade and Kristin Alleyne of Akram Khan Dance Company in Rhythm and Texture of dance and Christopher House in Mindful Dancing. Some of her recent performances include: ‘Am I only that?’ at

Munk Centre for Global Affairs, University of Toronto; Pop up performances at Aga Khan Museum, World Interfaith Harmony Week performance at Noor Cultural Centre, University of Toronto Festival of Dance and Ontario Culture Day at Gerrard/Ashdale Public Library. She also likes to collaborate with artists from other discipline and recently collaborated with a visual artist Tanzina Amin to create a piece called ‘Bold Expressions’ for the opening of her visual art exhibition at Super Wonder Gallery. An alumni of Trinity College, University of Toronto Mushtari specialized in Physics, Mathematics and Statistics, is very passionate about Particle Physics and aims to bring the obscure concept of science to life through her dance.

Syeda Rownak Afza (Vocalist)

Born and Raised in Bangladesh, Syeda Rownak Afza was very actively involved in Indian Classical Music from her very childhood. The two popular and dominant music streams in Bengal musical traditions are – Tagore and Nazrul songs and Syeda received extensive training in both of them. She has also showcased her talent in poetry recitation in many cultural programs in Bangladesh. Syeda has completed her MBA and Ph.D. in the field of Marketing and is currently working in the education field at post-secondary level in Toronto. Syeda is a vocalist and music collaborator with Kathak Bandi.



Amin Honarmand (Music Composer & Educator)



Amin Honarmand earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Tehran, and his master's and doctoral degrees in composition from the University of Toronto on full scholarship. His notable teachers include Chan Ka Nin, Alexander Rapoport, Christos Hatzis (composition and orchestration), Ryan McClelland and Mark Sallmen (analysis), and Dennis Patrick (electroacoustic music). Honarmand's compositions have been performed by different musicians and orchestras in Canada and Iran, including the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra and Tehran Symphony Orchestra. He has won several awards including the best classical composer award at Fajr International Music Festival (2016), the second award in the Nightingale Scoring Challenge (2009), TSYO call for scores (2009), Jam-e-Jam festival (2013), as well as Theodoros Mirkopoulos (2006-2007) and Lothar Klein (2008-2010) fellowships in composition at the University of Toronto.

Unspoken Grievances, a CD of his art music, and *Yesterday to Today*, a collection of his film music have been released by Mahoor Institute. In addition to composing, Honarmand is also active as a writer, and his recent book entitled *Introduction to Analysis of Atonal Music* has been published by the University of Tehran publications. Dr. Honarmand is an assistant professor of composition at the University of Tehran, where he teaches composition, orchestration, and analysis.

Junaed Anwar (Dotara)

Junaed Anwar, from Bangladesh, has been playing the Dotara since 1999. Dotara is a versatile string instrument that can be played both as rhythm and lead. For more than 150 years, it has been being played as the 'heart' of folk music in Southeast Asia including Bangladesh and India.

Junaed has received training from one of the most famous Dotara Maestro in Bangladesh, Ustad Ashutosh Sheel, the son of Late Kanailal Sheel who was the great Dotara artist, music composer and the inventor of the modern form of Dotara. Junaed also received advanced training on Dotara from Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in 2002.

In Canada, Junaed has been playing this instrument in Farmer's market for last 3 years in quite a number of venues. For his own community, he has played in several cities of GTA and took part in almost all the big events like Bangladesh Festival, FOBANA, Pathomela including the venues like Metro Toronto Convention Centre Toronto, Nathan Phillips Square, University of Toronto (Scarborough Campus) etc. He has also played the background music of a documentary by Save the Children, USA celebrating International Women's Day 2009. Moreover, Junaed has been interviewed by a Radio Channel in Toronto (AM 1280) and also in Bangladesh (Dhaka FM 90.4). Few of his Solo performances have been broadcasted in TV channels in both Canada and Bangladesh.

A Pharmacist by profession and currently a student of IPG program of University of Toronto, Junaed possesses absolute passion for music and Dotara, and wants to take this instrument from its 'Folk' image to an elite Global image through the application of pure Classical and contemporary practices.



Shawn Barry (Sitarist)

Shawn, a student of Christopher Dicran Hale, is new to sitar, but not to the arts. A career creative professional, artist and musician, Shawn has been studying Indian classical music since 2008. Early in his life, he was a rock and jazz kit drummer, but was later introduced to South Asian classical music and switched to studying the tabla drums, and performing as part of a percussion ensemble. After an unfortunate injury, he had to set the tabla aside. Not one to give up, he made the challenging switch to melody.

He is now a committed student of sitar, and has ambitions to become a well-rounded musician, able to solo and accompany dance, vocal and instrument music. Shawn is a regular music collaborator with Kathak Bandi.



Arlene Chan (Author-Storyteller)



Arlene Chan, author and Chinatown historian, has written seven books about the history, culture, and traditions of the Chinese in Canada. She devotes her time to researching, writing, lecturing, and relating her first-hand experiences and family stories as a Chinatown tour guide for Heritage Toronto and The Ward Museum.

Arlene, the daughter of Jean Lumb, is the president of the Jean Lumb Foundation that awards high school students of Chinese heritage for excellence in academics, athletics, community services, the arts, and innovation. She serves on the board of Little Pear Garden Dance Company and as an advisor for the Toronto Public Library's Chinese Canadian Archives, Chinese Canadian Museum, and Heritage Interpretation Working Group for Ontario Infrastructure.

Lien Chao (Author-Poet)

Lien Chao is an award-winning writer and a bilingual poet. Her publications include:

- *Beyond Silence: Chinese Canadian Literature in English* (1997); Winner of the 1997 Gabrielle Roy Award for Criticism.
- *Tiger Girl: Hü Nv* (creative nonfiction) (2001);
- *Maples and the Steam* (1999); bilingual poetry (English and Chinese);
- *More Than Skin Deep* (2004); bilingual poetry (English and Chinese);
- *The Chinese Knot and Other Stories* (2008).

Lien as Editor:

- *Strike the Wok: An Anthology of Contemporary Chinese Canadian Fiction* (2003) and four visual art collections (2004, 2008, 2011).



In recent years, Lien has collaborated with multi-award winning composer Vincent Ho; her lyrics have been chosen for orchestral, chamber, and vocal music. Their most recent collaboration was *Rejuvenation: A Taoist Journey* commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and premiered at Royal Thomson Hall on Feb. 4, 2017.

Lien's poem, "A drop of water," is composed by Amin Honarmand as a song for 2017 AHM Gala performance; vocal: Erica Iris, mezzo soprano, and Alice Ho, at piano.

Lien came to Canada in 1984 from China to pursue her postgraduate studies. She completed her MA in English in 1986, and her Ph.D in English in 1996 at York University.

Robert Fothergill (Author-Playwright)

Professor Fothergill is a playwright, critic and theatre historian. His drama, *Detaining Mr. Trotsky*, about the internment of Leon Trotsky in a prison camp in Nova Scotia in April 1917 (Canadian Stage Company, Toronto, 1987), won a Chalmers Award and several Dora nominations.

Public Lies (Tarragon Theatre, Toronto, 1993), also nominated for a Chalmers Award, addresses issues of truth, propaganda and media manipulation by dramatizing episodes in the Canadian career of John Grierson, documentary film pioneer and founder of the NFB.

Borderline, set in a refugee camp on the border of Rwanda and Tanzania, won second prize in the 1999 Herman Voaden Canadian Playwriting contest and was professionally workshopped under the direction of Bill Glassco. It was mounted at Toronto's SummerWorks theatre festival in 2004.

Robert Fothergill's most recent play is *The Dershowitz Protocol*, an examination of the ethics of torture in the context of the current 'war against terror'. The Dershowitz Protocol was presented at the SummerWorks festival in 2003 and received its U.S. premiere at the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre in Rochester, New York, in June 2006.

Other writings include *Private Chronicles* (Oxford 1974), a critical study of English diaries, and a chapter on Radio and TV Drama in Volume 4 of the *Literary History of Canada* (University of Toronto Press, 1990).

Teaching dramatic literature and criticism, Professor Fothergill was a long-time member of the English Department at York University's Atkinson College before joining the Department of Theatre in the Faculty of Fine Arts 1994. He served as Chair of the Theatre Department from 1994 to 1999.



Erica Iris (MC, Actress and Vocalist)

Mezzo-soprano Erica Iris Huang, BMus, Op Dip (WLU); Op Dip (Toronto), emerged into Toronto's music scene with credits to "a gorgeous big voice, seamless from top to bottom, dramatic, and highly expressive." (Howard Dyck) She made her 2004 operatic debut as TITUBA in Ward's *The Crucible* and has performed the roles of MRS. HERRING (Albert Herring), DIDO (Dido and Aeneas), FIDALMA (Il Matrimonio Segreto), CONCEPCIÓN (L'heure espagnole), LISETTA (Il Mondo Della Luna), CARMEN (Carmen), THE OLD WOMAN (Candide), KOMPONIST (Ariadne auf Naxos), MISTRESS QUICKLY (Falstaff), and DORABELLA (Cosi fan tutte). Praised for her stage presence of warmth and character, Erica has captivated audiences with her sensitivity and vocal timbres, which lend their hands in the new music repertory. She was featured in Igor Correia's "Three Great Songs of Range" which won the 2008 Karen Kieser Prize in Canadian music, gave the best singing of the evening as the sympathetic Aunt Adelaide in Charles Wilson's *Kamouraska* with Opera In Concert in 2009 (Ken Winters of The Globe and Mail), and made her New Music Concerts debut in 2010 with the premiere of Paul Steenhuisen's *Supplice and Demand*, performed with an "intense beautiful opacity" (Robert Everett-Green of The Globe And Mail). Winner of the 2011 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition and the City of Brandon Prize (awarded to the best performance of the Canadian commissioned work by Michael Oesterle), Erica and pianist Emily Hamper fulfilled their 2011 E-Gré Tour with thirteen concerts across Canada, graciously funded by Canada Council for the Arts. Erica has made numerous performances with the Aldeburgh Connection, from their Discovery Series, two years at the Bayfield Festival, and the Sunday Concert Series. In September 2012, she took on the mezzo roles in *Naomi's Road*, written by Ramona Luengen with the Vancouver Opera School Touring Ensemble.

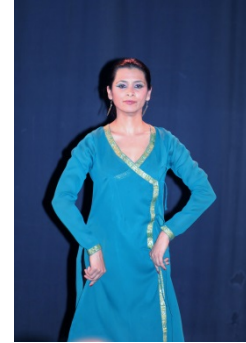


ERICA IRIS

Radhika Kedige (Dancer)

Originally trained in Bharatnatyam, post her immigration to Canada, Radhika was intrigued by the tenacity and the complexity of Kathak as an performing art forms of Northern India.

Currently, She has been training extensively under the tutelage of Guru Ms.Saveeta Sharma- Artistic Director of Upsana the spirit of dance and direct exponent of Shri Pandit Birju Maharaji. Radhika is a founding member of Kathak Bandi.



Joy Kogawa CM, OBC, LL.D., D.Lit., DD. (Author)

(Photo by Raymond Lum)

Publications:

The Splintered Moon, poetry, University of New Brunswick, 1967.

A Choice of Dreams, poetry, McClelland and Stewart, 1974 (out of print).

Jericho Road, poetry, McClelland and Stewart, 1977.

Obasan, novel, first printed by Lester and Orpen Dennys, Canada, 1981; David Godine, U.S.A., 1982; Penguin Canada, 1983; Reclam Verlag, Germany, 1993; Anchor Books, U.S.A., 1994, De Geus, Netherlands, 1997, Chuokoron, Japan, 1998.

Woman in the Woods, poetry, Mosaic, Canada, 1985.

Naomi's Road, children's fiction, Oxford University Press, Canada, 1986; Stoddart, Canada, 1994; expanded edition, Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2005.

Naomi no Michi, young adult fiction, Shogakkan, Japan.

Itsuka, novel, Viking, Canada, 1992; revised, Penguin Canada, 1993; 1993 Anchor Books, New York, 1994. Revisited as *Emily Kato*, Penguin Canada, 2005.

The Rain Ascends, novel, Knopf Canada, 1995; Vintage, Canada, 1996. Revised, Penguin Canada, 2003

A Song of Lilith, poetry, Polestar, an imprint of Raincoast, 2000.

A Garden of Anchors, Selected Poems, poetry, Mosaic, Canada, 2003.

Emily Kato, (Itsuka revisited) novel, Penguin Canada, 2005.

Naomi's Tree, children's fiction, Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2008

Gently to Nagasaki, memoir, Caitlin, 2016

Awards: For *Obasan*

Books in Canada -- First Novel Award

Canadian Authors Association -- Book of the Year Award

Periodical Distributors of Canada -- Best Paperback Fiction Award

Before Columbus Foundation -- The American Book Award

American Library Association -- Notable Book

Organizations:

Member Board of Directors -- Canadian Civil Liberties Association

Member Writers' Union of Canada

Member Pen International

Member -- National Association of Japanese Canadians

Past-president Toronto Dollar Community Projects Inc

Honours:

Member of the Order of Canada, 1986

Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, University of Lethbridge, 1991

Fellow of Ryerson Polytechnical University, 1991

Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, University of Guelph, 1992

Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Simon Fraser University, 1993



Urban Alliance Race Relations award, 1994
Grace MacInnis Visiting Scholar award, 1995
Doctor of Divinity, Honoris Causa, Knox College, University of Toronto, 1999
Lifetime Achievement Award, Association of Asian American Studies, 2001
Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, University of British Columbia, 2001
The NAJC National Award, National Association of Japanese Canadians, 2001
Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Queen's University, 2003
Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, University of Windsor, 2003
Obasan -- One Book One Community -- Medicine Hat, Alberta, 2004
Joy Kogawa Day, Vancouver, November 6, 2004
Obasan -- One Book One Vancouver -- Vancouver B.C., 2005
Obasan Cherry Tree Day, Vancouver, November 1, 2005
Naomi's Road, the opera, commissioned by Vancouver Opera, 2005
Order of British Columbia, 2006
George Woodcock Lifetime Achievement Award, 2008
B.C. Bookworld and Vancouver Public Library Plaque, 2008
B.C. Author Achievement Day Proclamation, April 25, 2008
Order of the Rising Sun, November 26, 2010
Obasan -- One Book One Community, Squamish, B.C., 2013
Writer-in-Residence, University of Toronto, 2013

Music collaborations

Composers:

Dan Locklair

Ramona Luengen

Leslie Uyeda

Ian Cusson

David R. Scott

Kento Watanabe

Larysa Kuzmenko

Mamunur Rashid (Percussionist and Flutist)



Md Mamunur Rashid was born in Jessore, Bangladesh in 9th march, 1976. From the very tender age he was passionate with tune and rhythm. He started taking musical lesson in the year 1991 from the Udichi Shilpi Ghosti (A popular musical School in southern Part of Bangladesh) and that was the Hawaian Guitar (Indian Slide guitar) and Tabla (Indian two headed drum played with fingers and palm of the hand). And received first class first award in the year 1992 from Dhrubo Parisad, Bangladesh. After around two years, he was focused on Tabla playing as the complexity and the beauty of north Indian rhythmic structure was

extremely fascinating to him. Later, He continued learning tabla from BAFA (Bangladesh Academy of Fine arts) where the instructor was Ustad Sabbir Mokammel, a well known tabla maestro in Bangladesh.

Mamunur Rashid is performing in various community programs in Bangladesh, e.g Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Jahangirnagar University, People's University of Bangladesh, inter disciplinary cultural festivals. In the year 2003, he moved to Germany for higher education. There he performed tabla in different community programs in different city like Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich etc.

Mamunur Rashid believes in traditional tabla playing methodology and at the same time he is very curious to share his musical knowledge with the artists of different corners of the globe in an international arena as the tabla is already known as a very versatile instrument to comply with almost all kind of musical genres of the world and thereby to uplift the brotherhood and affection of intercultural, cross-cultural exchange.

Being an Electrical Engineer, Mamunur Rashid was an Assistant Professor and Chairman of the department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering of the People's University of Bangladesh from 2010 to 2016. In the

year 2016, he moved to Canada as an Immigrant along with his family. Mamunur is a music collaborator with Kathak Bandi.

Patria Rivera (Author-Poet)

Photo by Mónica Millán



Patria Rivera is the author of *Puti/White* (2005), shortlisted for the Canadian Trillium Book Award for Poetry, and *The Bride Anthology* (2007) both from Frontenac House, as well as *Be* (2011), published by Signature Editions. She is also a co-recipient of the 2007 Filipino Global Literary Award for Poetry. Rivera won an honorable mention in the 1997 ARC National Poetry Magazine Poem of the Year Contest and has received fellowships to the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada and the Hawthornden Castle International Writers Retreat Centre in Scotland. In 2005, Rivera's poem, "Rare species," was selected as the second prize winner in the Eric Hill Award of Poetic Excellence competition held by QWERTY, a literary journal

published by the English Department of the University of New Brunswick. Her poetry has been anthologized in the Oxford University Press series Perspectives on Ideology.

Teresa Suen (Harpist)



Teresa Suen-Campbell's performance was praised as "performing with an incredible level of concentration" by renowned harpist Judy Loman. It was described as "angelic" by the Financial Times and was praised as "a formidable technique which shines and stuns" by the Macao Daily. An advocate of contemporary music, she has collaborated with many composers to date and will premiere a new harp concerto with Kindred Spirit Orchestra in 2018.

Teresa is the first harpist from China to acquire a Doctor of Music degree in harp performance. She studied at Northwestern University with Professor Elizabeth Cifani. She is the recipient of a number of honors and awards, including the Brevard Music Festival Scholarship and the Lee Hysan Foundation Fellowship. She began studying the harp at the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts and later

graduated with first- class honors from the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

As a soloist, Teresa performed at the American Harp Society Summer Institute, Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival and the Hong Kong Arts Festival. As an orchestral harpist, she performs with North Bay Symphony, and was the former principal harpist of the Hong Kong City Chamber Orchestra and Evanston Symphony Orchestra.

Her performances were broadcasted on TV and radio stations in Hong Kong, Canada, and the US. She also released her debut CD album *Longing* in 2010.

An enthusiastic and dedicated educator, Dr Suen-Campbell was appointed as an associate of the harp faculty at Carleton University in Ottawa. She was an adjunct assistant professor at The Chinese University of Hong Kong and a harp instructor at Northwestern University and University of Chicago. Recently, Teresa arranged and performed music of Robert Schumann and classical Chinese music for solo harp.

She is also a contributor for the American Harp Journal. Her former students have won top prizes in international competitions.