Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

NEW MUSIC

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 13, 2017 AT 6:30 & 9:00

Daniel and Joanna S. Rose Studio

3,691st and 3,692nd Concerts

GLORIA CHIEN, piano
WU MAN, pipa
SHANGHAI QUARTET
- **WEIGANG LI,** violin
- **YI-WEN JIANG,** violin
- **HONGGANG LI,** viola
- **NICHOLAS TZAVARAS,** cello

2016-2017 SEASON

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
70 Lincoln Center Plaza, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10023
212-875-5788
www.ChamberMusicSociety.org

This concert is made possible, in part, by the ***Aaron Copland Fund for Music****,* ***The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation,*** *and the* ***Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation.***

The Chamber Music Society is deeply grateful to Board member ***Paul Gridley*** *for his very generous gift of the Hamburg Steinway & Sons model "D" concert grand piano we are privileged to hear this evening.*

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YE XIAOGANG (b. 1955)
***Colorful Sutra Banner* for Piano, Violin, and Cello** (2006)
CHIEN, W. LI, TZAVARAS

ZHOU LONG (b. 1953)
***Song of the Ch'in* for String Quartet** (1982)
W. LI, JIANG, H. LI, TZAVARAS

ZHAO JIPING (b. 1945)
ZHAO LIN (b. 1973)
***Red Lantern* for Pipa and String Quartet** (2015) (New York Premiere)
- Prelude—Moonlight
- Wandering
- Love
- Death
- Epilogue

WU MAN, W. LI, JIANG, H. LI, TZAVARAS

BRIGHT SHENG (b. 1955)
***Dance Capriccio* for Piano and String Quartet** (2011)
CHIEN, W. LI, JIANG, H. LI, TZAVARAS

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES.
This evening's 9:00 concert is being streamed live at www.ChamberMusicSociety.org/WatchLive
Photographing, sound recording, or videotaping this event is prohibited.

NOTES ON THE PROGRAM

Colorful Sutra Banner for Piano, Violin, and Cello

YE XIAOGANG

- Born September 23, 1955 in Shanghai.

Composed in 2006.

- Premiered on December 7, 2006 in Beijing by pianist You Xi, violinist Zhang Ti, and cellist Zhu Yibing.
- Tonight is the first CMS performance of this piece.
- Duration: 11 minutes

Ye Xiaogang's oeuvre comprises symphonic works, a range of chamber music, stage works, and film music, and much of his music bears a connection to Chinese culture and tradition. In *The Song of the Earth* for soprano and orchestra, premiered in 2005, he uses the original Chinese texts on which Mahler based his symphonic work of the same name. The work has received performances in New York (Avery Fisher Hall), Munich (Philharmonie), Berlin (Konzerthaus), Venice, Rome, and Lucerne. The composer's deep attachment to nature and Buddhist religion is evident in the "Tibet Series"; for instance, in *Twilight of the Himalayas* (2013) he gives his impressions of traveling through Tibet and Nepal. In the "Tropic Plants Series," each work is named after a tropical plant and characterizes the homeland of the southern Chinese composer. In August 2008, his piano concerto *Starry Sky* was premiered by Lang Lang during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games in Beijing.

Ye is a member of the 12th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, chairman of the Chinese Musicians' Association, a member of the China Federation of Literary and Art Circles, vice president of the Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM), and a member of the Board of Directors of the China Film Association. He is also the founder and artistic director of the Beijing Modern Music Festival, the biggest contemporary music festival in Asia. He has received top music awards and honorary titles at China's most prestigious events, such as the China Golden Bell Award, Golden Rooster Film Awards, Huabiao Film Awards, The Best Film Music Award, and Achievement Award on Contemporary Chinese Film. In addition, he has won many international honors, including an award from the American Society of Composers and Publishers and a 2012 Guggenheim Fellowship Award. He studied at China's Central Conservatory of Music and the Eastman School of Music. Among his former teachers are Minxin Du, Samuel Adler, Joseph Schwantner, Louis Andriessen, and Alexander Goehr. Since 1993, Ye has divided his time between Beijing and Exton, Pennsylvania.

Colorful Sutra Banner was composed in 2006. It was commissioned by the Chinese violinist Lu Wei and cellist Zhao Jing. The music is the recollection of the composer's journey to the Tibetan Plateau. The fluttering Colorful Sutra Banners are viewed as the most sacred symbol to the Tibetans, and they make the most beautiful scenery of Tibetan landscape and mindscape. ◆

Song of the Ch'in for String Quartet

ZHOU LONG

- Born July 8, 1953 in Beijing.

Composed in 1982.

- Premiered in 1985 at the University of California Berkeley by the Berkeley Contemporary Chamber Players.
- Tonight is the first CMS performance of this piece.
- Duration: 8 minutes

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. Deeply grounded in the entire spectrum of his Chinese heritage, including folk, philosophical, and spiritual ideals, he is a pioneer in transferring the idiomatic sounds and techniques of ancient Chinese musical traditions to modern Western instruments and ensembles. His creative vision has resulted in a new music that stretches Western instruments eastward and Chinese instruments westward, achieving an exciting and fertile common ground. Recent work includes a commission from the World Saxophone Congress—*Temple Bugler* for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra is an adaption of his earlier work *The Rhyme of Taigu,* and was premiered at the World Sax Open in July 2015. He also composed a piece for solo horn, *Tipsy Howl,* that was used in the 2016 ARD International Music Competition. 2014 saw the completion of a new chamber work, *Tales from the Nine Bells,* co-commissioned and premiered by the Chamber Music Society and Wigmore Hall in London, and a new piano concerto, *Postures,* co-commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and BBC Proms.

Zhou won the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Music for his first opera, *Madame White Snake,* and was awarded the Elise L. Stoeger Prize from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; the largest prize devoted to chamber music composition in recognition of significant contributions to the field. He is currently Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. He attended China's Central Conservatory of Music and Columbia University, where he studied with Chou Wen-Chung, Mario Davidovsky, and George Edwards. A United States citizen since 1999, Zhou is married to composer-violinist Chen Yi.

The ch'in is a traditional Chinese seven-stringed, plucked zither, which was associated with sages and scholars. The sophisticated technique of ch'in playing, exemplified in the earliest manuscripts from the Tang dynasty (618-906 A.D.), involves various ways of plucking the strings, as well as describing the instrument's range, timbre, and the use of ornaments. In this composition for string quartet, Zhou captures the essence of these special musical gestures frequently found in ch'in music. The piece is based on a poem titled "Old Fisherman" by Liu Tsung-Yuan (773-819 A.D.), who was a government official and outstanding thinker and writer during the middle of the Tang dynasty. He was removed from his post for advocating reform, but he never became despondent. He traveled to many mountains and valleys in

southwestern China and created profound and beautiful works. In the "Old Fisherman," he wrote:

The old fisherman moors at night by western cliffs;
At dawn, draws water from the clear Hsiang, lights a fire with southern bamboo.
Mists melt in the morning sun, and the man is gone;
Only the song reverberates in the green of the hills and waters.
Look back, the horizon seems to fall into the stream;
And clouds float aimlessly over the cliffs. ◆

Red Lantern for Pipa and String Quartet

ZHAO JIPING
▸ Born July 20, 1945.

ZHAO LIN
▸ Born February 9, 1973.

Composed in 2015.
▸ Premiered on October 16, 2015 in Portland, Oregon by Wu Man and the Shanghai Quartet.
▸ Tonight is the New York premiere of this piece.
▸ Duration: 25 minutes

Zhao Jiping is an internationally recognized composer of folk-inspired film scores and concert music. He wrote his first major film music for Kaige Chen's *Yellow Earth* in 1984 and soon went on to compose scores for Oscar—and Golden Globe—nominated motion pictures such as *Raise the Red Lantern, To Live,* and *Farewell My Concubine,* collaborating with legendary director Zhang Yimou among others. He won a Golden Eagle Award for Best Original Song for the television series *Tales of the Marshes* and a Golden Rooster Award for Best Music for the film *Red Sorghum*. He has written a Pipa Concerto for Wu Man and the Santa Rosa Symphony, the opera *The Elm Blossom,* and has had numerous pieces commissioned, performed, and recorded by the Silk Road Ensemble. The subject of a 1995 documentary film, he has had works recorded by the Berlin Philharmonic and Kent Nagano, pianist Lang Lang, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the China Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, which performs on Chinese instruments. He is the former chairman and current honorary chairman of the Chinese Musicians' Association, president of the Shaanxi Literary Federation, and president of the Xi'an Conservatory of Music. Zhao Jiping studied at the Xi'an Conservatory of Music and the Central Conservatory of Music in China.

Zhao Lin is equally talented as a film composer and a composer of orchestral, chamber, and solo music. The composer of more than 10 film scores, he was nominated for a Golden Rooster Award for Best Music for *Together with You*. He has written multiple pieces for the Silk Road Ensemble, including *Distant Green Valley,* a collaboration with his father. He wrote *Duo,* a double concerto for Cello and Sheng (a Chinese woodwind instrument), in 2013 for Yo-Yo Ma and Wu Tong and the pair has performed it with the Guangzhou

Symphony Orchestra, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, and the New York Philharmonic at a special Lunar New Year concert in 2015.

Zhao Lin writes, "I was very honored to be invited by pipa virtuoso Wu Man and the Shanghai Quartet to compose a new work for pipa and string quartet. This piece is a tribute to my father, the composer Zhao Jiping, and to the great tradition of music from China.

"*Red Lantern* is derived from my father's original music, scored for the great Zhang Yimou film, *Raise the Red Lantern*. Inspired by Chinese traditional Beijing Opera, this work explores its unique musical style and language with the many colors of our traditional music. The quintet is a suite of stories that take place in a traditional Chinese private courtyard through the centuries. It tells an emotional story of Chinese family relationships in older times and the impact of the family's isolation from society." ◆

Dance Capriccio for Piano and String Quartet

BRIGHT SHENG

- Born December 6, 1955 in Shanghai.

Composed in 2011.

- Premiered on February 11, 2012 in Detroit by pianist Peter Serkin and the Shanghai String Quartet.
- Tonight is the first CMS performance of this piece.
- Duration: 12 minutes

Bright Sheng's stage, orchestral, chamber, and vocal works are performed regularly throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. His music is noted for its lyrical and limpid melodies, a Shostakovian sense of breath in music phrases, a Bartókian sense of rhythmic propulsion, and dramatic and theatrical gestures, often with strong Chinese and Asian influences. In September 2016, the San Francisco Opera premiered his much-anticipated new opera, *Dream of the Red Chamber,* to overwhelming public and critical acclaim. Soon after, the San Francisco Symphony, led by Michael Tilson Thomas, premiered his *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture,* and then took it on tour to China, Japan, and Korea.

Sheng has received a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, the American Award in Music from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and an ASCAP Achievement Award. His music has been commissioned and performed by many of the world's most prestigious institutions, including the San Francisco Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, New York City Ballet, the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestra de Paris, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Hamburg Radio Symphony, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, China National Symphony, and National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan. He also was among the composers chosen by the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Committee to composer music

"IN *DANCE CAPRICCIO,* I TRY TO CAPTURE THE VARIOUS CHARACTERS OF SHERPA DANCE, FROM SLOW TO FAST, TENDER TO RAUCOUS EVEN WILD."

for the opening ceremony. He founded and serves as the artistic director of The Intimacy of Creativity, a two-week music festival in Hong Kong that recently celebrated its fifth anniversary with a two-disc Naxos Records release. Sheng studied at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, Queens College, and Columbia University, and his teachers included Leonard Bernstein, Chou Wen-Chung, Jack Beeson, Mario Davidovsky, George Perle, and Hugo Weisgall. He teaches at the University of Michigan, and is a visiting professor at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Sheng writes, "*Dance Capriccio* was commissioned by the Maxine and Stuart Frankel Foundation in honor of Lois Beznos, the President of Chamber Music Society of Detroit. The work is written for Peter Serkin and the Shanghai String Quartet who premiered it on February 11, 2012, at the Seligman Performing Arts Center in Detroit. It is approximately 12 minutes in length.

"*Dance Capriccio* is inspired by the dance folk music of Sherpa, a small ethnic group (population ca. 150,000) mostly living in western Nepal, in the high mountains of the Himalayas. In Tibetan language, Sherpa means 'people of the east,' as it is believed Sherpa moved from eastern Tibet to their current site centuries ago. Sherpa are regarded as excellent mountaineers and guides for expeditions of the Himalayas, especially Everest.

"Sherpa language is essentially an atypical dialect of Tibetan. The same phenomenon is reflected in Sherpa folk music which is similar to Tibetan but with its distinctive characters and twists of melodic turns. Like the Tibetans, Sherpa people love to dance and, along with love songs and drinking songs, dance music is an important genre among Sherpa folk music.

"In *Dance Capriccio,* I try to capture the various characters of Sherpa Dance, from slow to fast, tender to raucous even wild.

"This work is dedicated to Maxine and Stuart Frankel, my dear friends, and passionate patrons and promoters for arts and art education." ◆

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

GLORIA CHIEN

▸ Taiwanese-born pianist Gloria Chien has one of the most diverse musical lives as a noted performer, concert presenter, and educator. She was selected by the *Boston Globe* as one of its Superior Pianists of the year, "... who appears to excel in everything." She made her orchestral debut at the age of 16 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra with Thomas Dausgaard, and performed again with the BSO with Keith Lockhart. In recent seasons she has performed as a recitalist and chamber musician at Alice Tully Hall, the Library of Congress, the Phillips Collection, the Kissingen Sommer festival, the Dresden Chamber Music Festival, and the National Concert Hall in Taiwan. A former member of CMS Two, she performs frequently with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. In 2009 she launched String Theory, a chamber music series at the Hunter Museum of American Art in downtown Chattanooga, that has become one of Tennessee's premier classical music presenters. The following year she was appointed Director of the Chamber Music Institute at the Music@Menlo festival by Artistic Directors David Finckel and Wu Han. In 2017, she joined her husband, violinist Soovin Kim, as Co-Artistic Director of the Lake Champlain Chamber Music Festival in Burlington, Vermont. Ms. Chien received her B.M., M.M., and D.M.A. degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music as a student of Russell Sherman and Wha-Kyung Byun. She holds the position of artist-in-residence at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. She is a Steinway Artist.

WU MAN

▸ Recognized as the world's premier pipa virtuoso Wu Man has carved out a career as a soloist, educator, and composer giving her lute-like instrument—which has a history of over 2,000 years in China—a new role in both traditional and contemporary music. She has premiered hundreds of new works for the pipa, while spearheading multimedia projects to both preserve and create awareness of China's ancient musical traditions. Her efforts were recognized when she was named *Musical America's* 2013 Instrumentalist of the Year, marking the first time this prestigious award has been bestowed on a player of a non-Western instrument. Highlights of her 2016-17 season include the world premiere of a new pipa concerto by Vincent Ho with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and performances of Tan Dun's Pipa Concerto with the NCPA Orchestra, Reno Chamber Orchestra, and Sinfonieorchester Aachen. She also returns to Wigmore Hall to perform with frequent collaborator singer Sanubar Tursen, and tours Europe as soloist with The Knights. Her discography of more than 40 albums includes the Grammy Award-winning *Sing Me Home,* a companion album to the documentary *The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble,* in which Wu Man also is a featured artist. Born in Hangzhou, China, Wu Man studied with Lin Shicheng, Kuang Yuzhong, Chen Zemin, and Liu Dehai at the Central Conservatory of Music, where she became the first recipient of a master's degree in pipa. She moved to the U.S. in 1990 and currently resides with her husband and son in California.

SHANGHAI STRING QUARTET

▸ Renowned for its passionate musicality, impressive technique, and multicultural innovations, the Shanghai Quartet has become one of the world's foremost chamber ensembles. Its elegant style melds the delicacy of Eastern music with the emotional breadth of Western repertoire, traversing musical genres from traditional Chinese folk music to masterpieces of Western music and cutting-edge contemporary works.

Formed in 1983, the quartet has worked with the world's most distinguished artists and regularly tours the major music centers of Europe, North America, and Asia. Recent festival performances include the International Music Festivals of Seoul and Beijing, the Festival Pablo Casals in France, Beethoven Festival in Poland, and the Yerevan Festival in Armenia, as well as concerts in all regions of North America. The quartet has appeared at Carnegie Hall in chamber performances and with orchestra. Among innumerable collaborations, the quartet members have performed with the Tokyo, Juilliard, and Guarneri quartets, cellists Yo-Yo Ma and Lynn Harrell, pianists Menahem Pressler, Yuja Wang, Peter Serkin and Jean-Yves Thibaudet, and pipa virtuosa Wu Man. They have been regular performers at North America's leading chamber music festivals, including the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival, Chamberfest Ottawa, and Maverick Concerts.

The quartet has a history of championing new music. Its 30th anniversary season brought new works from David Del Tredici, Carl Vine, Jeajoon Ryu, Lei Liang, and Robert Aldridge. Its 25th anniversary season featured Penderecki's *String Quartet No. 3: Leaves From an Unwritten Diary,* Chen Yi's *From the Path of Beauty,* commissioned with Chanticleer, and works by Vivian Fung and jazz pianist Dick Hyman. The Penderecki premiered at the composer's 75th birthday concert in Poland, followed by US premieres at Montclair State University and the Modlin Center and was featured again at the composer's 80th birthday celebration in 2013. Chen Yi's *From the Path of Beauty,* premiered in San Francisco, with performances at Tanglewood and Ravinia, Beijing and Shanghai. Other recent premieres include works by Bright Sheng, Zhou Long, Dan Welcher, Du Yun, and in 2015, Zhao Lin's *Red Lantern* for pipa, based on the music of his father, Zhao Jiping. The tradition continues with a commission from William Bolcom that was premiered in early April.

The Shanghai Quartet has an extensive discography of more than 30 recordings. Delos released the quartet's most popular disc, *Chinasong:* a collection of Chinese folk songs arranged by Yi-Wen Jiang. The complete Beethoven String Quartets can be heard on Camerata's set, released in 2009.

Media projects range from Bartók's String Quartet No. 4 in Woody Allen's film *Melinda and Melinda* to PBS television's *Great Performances*. Weigang Li appeared in the documentary *From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China,* and the family of Nicholas Tzavaras was the subject of the film *Music of the Heart*. The quartet is the subject of a documentary film, *Behind the Strings,* currently in production.

The Shanghai Quartet is quartet-in-residence at Montclair State University, ensemble-in-residence with the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, and visiting guest professors of the Shanghai Conservatory and the Central Conservatory in Beijing.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CMS

THE CELLISTS OF LINCOLN CENTER

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 5:00 PM ▸ ALICE TULLY HALL

The Cellists of Lincoln Center return to offer an evening of unmatched sonority, beauty, and fun.

MASTER CLASS WITH MILAN TURKOVIC

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 11:00 AM ▸ DANIEL AND JOANNA S. ROSE STUDIO

Bassoonist Milan Turkovic leads a wind master class with talented students.
This event will be streamed live at www.ChamberMusicSociety.org/watchlive

THE ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 7:30 PM ▸ ALICE TULLY HALL

CMS welcomes the St. Lawrence String Quartet back to its stage with a program spanning the repertoire, from Joseph Haydn to John Adams.