

BEYOND THE TOKEN

ASIAN PERSPECTIVES IN WIND MUSIC

INTRODUCTION

As is the case for many minority and underrepresented groups in the field of band music, questions of identity and representation within the seemingly small population of Asian American conductors and composers have led to shared feelings or varying degrees of discomfort, unseen pressures, and potentially harmful assumptions. An examination of trends of representation (or lack thereof) in Asian conductors/directors and composers in prominent roles, institutions, societies, and organizations may very well reveal systemic issues that have created obstacles in the minds of young Asian music students entering the field of music teaching and composing. We present a thoughtful dialogue particular to the Asian experience in the field of music teaching and composing to stimulate wider understanding and sensitivity towards these issues.

RESOURCES

- AAPI Composers & Web Resources, Curtis Institute <https://libguides.curtis.edu/c.php?g=1144545&p=8352757>
- And We Were Heard - <http://www.andwewereheard.org>
- Asian Americans, PBS 5-part film, includes educational resources. <https://www.pbs.org/weta/asian-americans/watch/>
- Asian Musical Voices - on Facebook
- Asian Pacific American Heritage & Music - Smithsonian Music, <https://music.si.edu/feature/asian-pacific-american-heritage-and-music>
- Composers Equity Project, Chamber Music America, <https://www.chamber-music.org/pdf/ComposersEquityProject.pdf>
- Decolonizing the Music Room <https://decolonizingthemusicroom.com>
- Institute for Composer Diversity - <http://www.composerdiversity.com>
- On the List Project - <http://www.onthelistproject.org>
- Resources for Asian Americans (musicians), Hyeyung Sol Yoon, <https://www.hyeyung.com/asian-americans>
- Stop AAPI Hate: Resources for the Chamber Music Community, <https://www.chamber-music.org/resources/stop-aapi-hate>
- Wind Repertory Project - <http://www.windrep.org>

ARTICLES & BOOKS

- *Horizon Leans Forward: Stories of Courage, Strength, and Triumph of Underrepresented Communities in the Wind Band Field*, Leung, Erik, et.al. GIA Publications, 2021.
- "Asians are represented in classical music. But are they seen?" *New York Times*, 30 July 2021
- "Asian composers reflect on a careers in Western classical music" *New York Times*, 23 July 2021
- "A Violinist on how to empower Asian musicians" *New York Times*, 21 July 2021
- "The Curious Case of Keiko Yamada" by Jennifer Jolley, 7 November 2019, *New Music Box*, www.newmusicusa.org

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Wednesday, December 15, 2021

5:30 - 6:30 PM | McCormick Place West

SELECTED WORKS FOR WINDS

VIET CUONG

- Rule of Three (2021) gr. 3 for percussion trio + band
- Howls and Hymns (2017), for trombone & gr. 3 band
- Diamond Tide (2015) gr. 3.5, 8'
- Full Circle (2019), 4'
- Bull's Eye (2019), 11' chamber winds, gr. 5
- Moth (2013), 8', gr. 5
- Re(new)al (2021/2019), gr. 5, chamber winds or wind ensemble with percussion quartet
- Sound and Smoke (2011), gr. 5
- Thu Dieu (2021), gr. 5
- Tuba Concerto (2019), 11', gr. 5
- Lasting Light (2018), 8.5', gr. 5
- There (2017), chamber choir & winds, gr. 5

JENNIFER JOLLEY

- Last Stage to Red Rock (2016) gr. 1
- Son of a Gun (2019), gr. 1
- The Walkup (2018), gr. 2
- Think About It (2019) gr. 2.5
- Ash (2018) gr. 4
- Lichtweg/Lightway (2017), gr.4
- Motordom (2010), gr. 5
- Never Forget, Never Remember (2017), gr. 4
- March! (2020), gr. 5
- The Eyes of the World Are Upon You (2016), gr. 5
- Through the Looking Glass Falls (2014), gr. 5

AAKASH MITTAL

- Three Songs of Bengal (2019), gr. 2

CAIT NISHIMURA

- Chasing Sunlight (2016) gr. 3
- Lake Superior Suite (2018) gr. 5
- Beneath the Canopy (2021) gr. 3
- Alpine Meadow (2020) gr. 2.5
- Intrinsic Light (2019) gr. 4
- Golden Hour (2020) horn + piano
- Tundra (2020) euphonium + piano
- Valley Views (2018/2021) brass quintet

CONVERSATION

Current themes in inclusive narratives

- Valuing diversity
- Inclusion & equity
- Towards Universal Music
- Sense of community & networks

How does being labeled a "diverse" teacher/composer/conductor impact how you present yourself to students/ performers/ audiences?

What do you want your colleagues to know about you as an artist?

What cultural/societal/musical narratives surrounding Asian heritage should music educators know about?

EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE: STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

1. Foster inclusivity, avoid tokenism
2. Go beyond programming towards a quota. Program music to support, admire, appreciate, nurture, and celebrate Asian voices.
3. Mentor Asian colleagues new to the teaching profession.
4. Create pathways for Asians to attain leadership positions.
5. Commission & perform music by Asian composers.
6. Learn the histories of Asian Americans and empower Asian colleagues to speak on diversity issues, their personal experiences of discrimination and/or aggression.
7. See your students and colleagues as individuals with their own stories, not as established narratives.

FEATURED WORKS BY ASIAN COMPOSERS AT 2021 MIDWEST CLINIC

- Viet Cuong - Thu Dieu (grade 5), United States Army Field Band (Wednesday, 6:00 PM, 375 AB)
- Miyuko Oda - Dawn (grade 3) - United States Army Field Band (Wednesday, 8:00 PM, 375 AB)
- Cait Nishimura - Wilderness (grade 4) - Aledo Middle School (Thursday, 3:00 PM, 375 E) *world premiere*
- Soon Hee Newbold - Storm (gr. 1.5) - Fairfax Wind Symphony (Thursday, 5:45 PM, 375 E)
- Viet Cuong - Re(new)al, (grade 5 for percussion quartet and wind ensemble), Dallas Winds, Thursday, 7:30 PM 375 AB)
- Viet Cuong - Rule of Three, (grade 3, for 3 solo percussion + band) - Walsh Middle School (Friday, 2:45 PM, 375 E)
- Aakash Mittal - Three Songs of Bengal (grade 2) - Walsh Middle School (Friday, 2:45 PM, 375 E)
- Yo Goto - Smiley Rag (grade 4) - Walsh Middle School (Friday, 2:45 PM, 375 E)