2011 Neumann Lecture on Music: The Role of Music in a Global Society

Department of Music, University of Richmond

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THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
Presents the

2011 NEUMANN LECTURE ON MUSIC

THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY

Lei Liang, composer

SHANGHAI QUARTET—
Weigang Lei, violin
Yi-Wen Jiang, violin
Honggang Li, viola
Nicholas Tzavaras, cello

and

Wu Man, pipa

Saturday, February 26, 2011
3:00 p.m.
University of Richmond
Camp Concert Hall

A 2010-2011 GLOBAL SOUNDS SERIES EVENT
THE NEUMANN LECTURES ON MUSIC are named in honor of longtime faculty member Frederick “Fritz” Neumann (1907-1994).

Appointed to Richmond’s music faculty in 1955, Fritz taught violin, founded the University Symphony, and was concertmaster of the Richmond Symphony. He retired in 1978. From the mid 1960s, he occupied himself principally with the research of authentic performance practice, particularly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, a career that was furthered by grants from the American Philosophical Society, the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The American Musicological Society presented Neumann with the prestigious Otto Kinkeldey Award in 1987 for the volume Ornamentation and Improvisation in Mozart.

The department invites one distinguished music scholar each year to address the university community, the scholarly community, and to spend time with our students. These lectures offer a further opportunity to expand our vision of the University of Richmond as a location for serious dialogue about music, the arts, and society.

THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY

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LEI LIANG (b. 1972) is a Chinese-born American composer whose orchestral, chamber and stage works have been performed throughout the world. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and an Aaron Copland Award, Lei Liang was commissioned by the New York Philharmonic and Alan Gilbert for the inaugural concert of the CONTACT! new music series. Other commissions and performances come from the Taipei Chinese Orchestra, the Heidelberger Philharmonisches Orchester, National Endowment for the Arts, the Fromm Music Foundation, Meet the Composer, Chamber Music America, Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Manhattan Sinfonietta, the Arditti, Ying and Shanghai Quartets, the Meridian Arts Ensemble, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, New York New Music Ensemble, Boston Musica Viva and pipa virtuoso Wu Man. Lei Liang’s music is recorded on Telarc, Mode, Innova, GM, Einstein, Spectral and New World Records (forthcoming).

As a scholar, he is active in the research and preservation of traditional Asian music. Lei Liang studied composition with Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Robert Cogan, Chaya Czernowin, and Mario Davidovsky, and received degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music (BM and MM) and Harvard University (PhD). He was named Junior Fellow at the Society of Fellows at Harvard University, taught in China as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Shaanxi Normal University College of Arts in Xi’an, served as Honorary Professor of Composition and Sound Design at Wuhan Conservatory of Music and as Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Middlebury College. He currently serves as Associate Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego.

"One of the most exciting voices in New Music" (The Wire)
"Hauntingly beautiful and sonically colorful" (The New York Times)

Visit www.lei-liang.com/
Renowned internationally as a virtuosic pipa performer, **Wu Man** has also carved out a career creating and collaborating on projects that give this ancient Chinese instrument a new role in today's music world, not only introducing the instrument to new audiences, but greatly enhancing and growing the core repertoire.

Cited by the _Los Angeles Times_ as “the artist most responsible for bringing the pipa to the Western World,” Wu Man continually collaborates with some of the most distinguished musicians and conductors performing today. She is a principal member of Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Project and performs internationally as part of the project’s ensemble. Wu Man also often frequently performs and records with the groundbreaking Kronos Quartet.

Wu Man will begin the 2010-11 season with performances in Mexico as part of the Philip Glass Ensemble performing Orion, a seven movement collaboration with Glass and five other world musicians. In February 2011, Wu Man will perform as soloist with the Taipei Chinese Orchestra in three concerts. The Taipei Chinese Orchestra musicians all perform with traditional Chinese instruments. Wu Man will perform a pipa concerto, _The Yang’s Saga_, by composer Yiu-Kwong Chung with the orchestra.

Last year Wu Man curated two concerts at Carnegie Hall as part of the ‘Ancient Paths, Modern Voices’ festival celebrating Chinese culture. Her travels in China to find the musicians were documented on a film, _Discovering a Musical Heartland – Wu Man’s Return to China_. In November 2009 Wu Man and the Kronos Quartet presented the world premiere of _A Chinese Home_, directed by Chen Shi-Zheng. In addition to playing the pipa, Wu Man sings, acts and plays percussion when performing this piece.

Wu Man has performed as soloist with many of the world’s major orchestras and her touring has taken her to the major music halls. A Grammy-nominated artist, Wu Man will release a new solo recording of early pipa works from the 8th to 12th century and new compositions called _Immeasurable Light_, in September 2010 on Traditional Crossroads.

Born in Hangzhou, China, Wu Man studied with Lin Shicheng, Kuang Yuzhong, Chen Zemin, and Liu Dehai at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, where she became the first recipient of a master’s degree in pipa. When in China, Wu Man received first prize in the 1st National Music Performance Competition, among other awards. She also participated in many groundbreaking premieres of works by a new generation of Chinese composers. Wu Man currently lives in Carlsbad, CA. She formerly lived in Boston for 12 years, where she was selected as a Bunting Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Study at Harvard University. Wu Man was selected by Yo-Yo Ma as the winner of the City of Toronto Glenn Gould Protégé Prize in music and communication. She is also the first artist from China to have performed at the White House.

Visit [www.wumanpipa.org/](http://www.wumanpipa.org/)

**THE PIPA**

*Orig. China* The pipa is a short-necked wooden lute. The head of the instrument is often carved with a bat’s head, because the word for “bat” in Chinese sounds similar to the word for “luck.” The strings were traditionally made of twisted silk, but are now typically synthetic.

The first known text reference to the pipa is in a third-century Chinese encyclopedia, which notes that it originated “among barbarians,” who played it while riding horseback. Since the Tang Dynasty (618-907 C.E.), the pipa has been one of the most popular instruments in China.

The pluck-playing technique is characterized by spectacular finger dexterity and virtuosic effects, including rolls and percussive slaps. Pipa repertoire includes extensive tone poems vividly describing famous battles and other exciting stories.

“I actually have five pipas and choose among them. Not one of them is old. The way to make pipas has changed. In ancient times, the pipa used to have six frets; now it has 24. In ancient times, the strings used to be made of silk; now they are made of steel. These steel strings are very strong and produce a loud sound, much better for a large concert hall. With steel strings, however, we have to use plastic picks, and not our fingernails, to pluck the strings.” —Wu Man

—from _Silk Road Project_ site
THE 2010-2011 DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC CONCERT SERIES
FREE— in Camp Concert Hall, unless otherwise noted
*designates tickets required (Modlin Box Office, 289-8980)

FALL 2010
Sunday, Sept. 19—3:00p
Perkinson Recital Hall
Donald George, tenor
Lucy Mauro, piano

Monday, Sept. 20—7:30p
Emily Rigs, soprano
David Ballena, piano

Friday, Sept. 24—7:30p
FAMILY WEEKEND CONCERT
Jazz, Orchestra, Band, Choirs

Wednesday, Oct. 13—7:30p *
TimbaSon, with
Mike Davison and guests

Thursday, Oct. 21—7:30p
Perkinson Recital Hall
MUSIC OF NORTH INDIA—Rajeev Taranath, sarod

Friday, Oct. 22—7:30p *
RICHMOND SYMPHONY
Steven Smith, Director
Joanne Kong, harpsichord & piano

Sunday, Oct. 24—3:00p
SCHOLA CANTORUM & REUNION CHOIR
WOMEN’S CHORALE

Friday, Oct. 29—7:30p
DAVID ESLECK TRIO

Thursday, Nov. 4—times vary
3P ELECTROACOUSTIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sunday, Nov. 14—7:30p
UNIVERSITY WIND ENSEMBLE

Wednesday, Nov. 17—7:30p *
CUBAN SPECTACULAR
UR JAZZ Combo & area musicians

Sunday, Nov. 21—3:00p
WORLD MUSIC CONCERT—UR Taiko Ensemble

Monday, Nov. 22—7:30p
UR JAZZ ENSEMBLE & JAZZ COMBO
With guest Justo Almario, sax & clarinet

Monday, Nov. 29—7:30p
UR CHAMBER ENSEMBLES CONCERT

Wednesday, Dec. 1—7:30p
UR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Featuring student winners of 2010 Concerto/Vocal Competition

SPRING 2011
Wednesday, Jan. 26—7:30p *
CHAMBER MUSIC OF ARNOLD SCHOENBERG
ensemble-in-residence eighth blackbird and UofR Music faculty

Sunday, Feb. 6—3:00p
RICHARD BECKER, piano

Wednesday, Feb. 23—7:30p
THOMAS MASTROIANNI, piano

Saturday, Feb. 26—3:00p *
THE ROLE OF MUSIC IN A GLOBAL SOCIETY
NEUMANN LECTURE ON MUSIC—PANEL
Discussion with Lei Liang, Shanghai Quartet, and Wu Man

Thursday, March 17—7:30p
THE KANDINSKY TRIO
Perkinson Recital Hall

Sunday, March 27—3:00p
RICHARD BECKER, piano
DORIS WYLEE-BECKER, piano

Monday, April 4—7:30p *
JEPSON LEADERSHIP FORUM
Chen Yi, composer

Wednesday, April 6—7:30p
UR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Friday, April 8—7:30p *
SCHOLA CANTORUM, WOMEN’S CHORALE,
EIGHTH BLACKBIRD, with composer Chen Yi

Sunday, April 10—all day, across campus
GLOBAL SOUNDS FESTIVAL

Monday, April 11—7:30p
UR JAZZ ENSEMBLE & COMBO

Wednesday, April 13—7:30p
UR WIND ENSEMBLE

Wednesday, April 20—7:30p
UR CHAMBER ENSEMBLES