



Robert Aitken, artistic director

43rd season | 360th event
Saturday May 17, 2014
Gallery 345
345 Sorauren Ave., Toronto

New Music Concerts presents

an intimate evening with

WEIWEI LAN

Weiwei Lan pipa | **Robert Aitken** flute

Pipa recital:

1. 汉宫秋月 *Moon of the Autumn Harem* (traditional) 7'
2. 平沙落雁 *Wild Geese Landing on the Sandlot* (traditional) 8'
3. 琵琶辞 *Pipa Words* by **QIN** Wenchen (2006) 11'
4. 十面埋伏 *Ambush from All Sides* (traditional) 12'

Duet for flute and pipa:

CHEN Xiaoyong – *Talking through Distance* (2014)

(Preview performance, Roger D. Moore commission)

The composer portraits on sale are courtesy of our long-time photographer André Leduc. The sound sculpture installations (*Convergence Machine* and *Cumulative Interplay*) were kindly provided by Sandor Azenstadt. Special thanks to President Edward Epstein for providing the venue and libations and to board members George Bulat, Austin (and Beverly) Clarkson, Brian Current, Joe (and Fran) Macerollo, Tim Moody, Doina Popescu, Rick Sacks, Jeffrey (and Tomiko) Smyth for the gourmet delights.

LAN Weiwei (in Chinese 兰维薇) was born in Sichuan, China, 1980. She has pursued the career of a pipa-player for more than 20 years, and considered to be one of the best-pipa players in China. She has won a multitude of prizes since childhood. In recent years, Lan Weiwei has been invited to guest-perform in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Mongolia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Canada, Mexico, Vietnam, Indonesia, etc. From the very start of her artistic career she has dedicated herself to introducing the traditional and folk music of China to the Western world. In addition, she has intense passion in playing contemporary music of different forms - solo pieces, ensemble music, and concertos with symphony orchestra etc. She has held recitals in Beijing, Freiburg, Taipei, etc. She has co-operated with various orchestras around China such as Beijing, Shanghai, Henan, Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Hong Kong as well as in Taipei, Estonia, Freiburg and Toronto. Through her performing art pipa music has become a bridge between ancient and modern times as well as between the East and the West. Lan Weiwei teaches at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China.

CHEN Xiaoyong was born in Peking on 13 May 1955, where he first studied violin and then composition from 1980 until 1985 at the Central Conservatory. He completed studies immediately afterwards with György Ligeti in 1989 at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hamburg. Xiaoyong Chen belongs to a small group of Chinese composers who have very recently aroused great attention on an international scale. Guest professorships have constantly taken him to Taiwan, Hong Kong and China since 1997. Since 1987 he has been a lecturer at the Asia-Africa Institute of the University of Hamburg and since 2006 he has been professor for composition at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. In October 2010 Chen was appointed Guest Professor in the areas of New Music, Composition and Chinese Musical Culture at the Academy of Music and Theatre in Hamburg.

琵琶辞 *Pipa Words* by **QIN Wenchen** (2006) 11'

This piece was written for the composer's friend, Julian Yu, and was premiered by Lan Weiwei at the Shanghai Oriental Art Center in 2008.

It begins solely with harmonics, creating a kaleidoscopic sound world resembling the colourful spectrums created by the sun shining through the morning dew. The momentum of the piece

then builds as the musical streams converge into the tumbling sound world of a roaring river and heading towards the sea of tranquility, concluding this highly imaginative work in one continuous, uninterrupted 'breath'.

The composer has presented the pipa in a different way with this piece, rethinking the concept of sound through the exploration of its timbral possibilities and extended techniques, especially that of harmonics, utilizing them to a new height!

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Wednesday May 21, 2014

Mazzoleni Hall, The Royal Conservatory
273 Bloor Street West, Toronto

New Music Concerts *presents*

NEW BEIJING

Weiwei Lan pipa | **NMC Ensemble** | **Robert Aitken** direction

CHEN Xiaoyong – *Evapora* (1994)

JIA Guoping – *Sparkling in the Vast* (2014)

(world premiere, RCM 21C commission)

CHEN Xiaoyong – *Talking through Distance* (2014)

(world premiere, Roger D. Moore commission)

TBC - solo works for pipa

Alexina **LOUIE** – *Imaginary Opera* (2004)

7:15^{pm} Illuminating Introduction | 8:00^{pm} Concert

Tickets \$32/\$25 | Reservations 416.408.0208



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New Music Concerts

Robert Aitken, c.m., Artistic Director

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