

# YING-CHEN KAO

Medium Biography (327 words)

Ying-Chen Kao (高盈真) is a Taiwanese-American composer, pianist, educator, graphic and web designer. Her music has been lauded as “exceedingly beautiful” in *Soundboard* UK, a “challenging and rich work” in the *Coral Gables Gazette*, and “an evocative and surreal soundscape” on *minor 7th.com*.

Notable commissions include the Peabody Children’s Chorus, REDSHIFT ensemble, the 2008 Summer Trombone Workshop in Taiwan, Michael Kannen, Donald Sutherland, Gary Thomas, and Jenny Lin. Ying-Chen’s music has been featured at various events and broadcasts, such as MUSIQA, The North American Taiwanese Professors’ Association, Taiwan Culture Center D.C., Sylvia Adalman Chamber Series, Union Square Chamber Music Society, WBJC, and NPR. Her compositions have been showcased in venues, such as Capital One Hall, The Stone, The Mainstay, Ningbo Grand Theater, Hangzhou Grand Theatre, Alishan Township Tsou Nature and Cultural Center, and Kaohsiung Music Center.

Her saxophone quartet “Frustration Factory” and “Ancient Memory” for solo trombone were published by [Warwick Music/Hal Leonard Europe](#). Her composition, “[Falling Still](#),” a piece for cello and piano inspired by the essays of late Korean-American writer [Katherine Min](#), was premiered by cellist Michael Kannen, pianist Qing Jiang, and narrated by the author. Her *Prix D’Ete*-winning work, “[Lilac . Star . Bird](#),” for solo guitar, was released as the title track on [guitarist Tracy Anne Smith’s solo debut album](#). Britain's *Classical Guitar Magazine* praised the work as “...one of almost beautiful-sounding dissonance... This is no doubt a major work that demands attention.”

Ying-Chen received her M.M., and Postgraduate Studies in composition from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University, and B.M. in theory and composition from the University of Miami. Besides music, Ying-Chen is also a co-founder of [ycArt design studio LLC](#) and an active graphic and web designer. Her design work, “Constellation of Voice,” was featured on the cover of Carnegie Hall’s playbill in October 2008.

Ying-Chen resides in Baltimore with her husband, composer and pianist, David Witmer. For more information on Ying-Chen Kao, please visit [yingchenkao.com](#).

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