

YING-CHEN KAO

Short Biography (244 words)

Ying-Chen Kao (高盈真) is a Taiwanese-American composer, pianist, educator, graphic and web designer. She creates music that explores identity, memory, emotion, and visual imagery.

Notable commissions include the Peabody Children's Chorus, REDSHIFT ensemble, Michael Kannen, Donald Sutherland, Gary Thomas, and Jenny Lin. Her music has been praised as "exceedingly beautiful", "challenging and rich", and "an evocative and surreal soundscape". Her works have been featured at events, broadcasts, and venues, such as: MUSIQA, The North American Taiwanese Professors' Association, Taiwan Culture Center D.C., Sylvia Adalman Chamber Series, Union Square Chamber Music Society, The Stone, Ningbo Grand Theater, Hangzhou Grand Theatre, Alishan Township Tsou Nature and Cultural Center, Kaohsiung Music Center, WBJC, and NPR. Her saxophone quartet "Frustration Factory" and "Ancient Memory" for solo trombone were published by Warwick Music/Hal Leonard Europe. 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. 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.

She is 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 the Carnegie Hall's playbill in October 2008. She 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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