



VANCOUVER
SCULPTURE
PERFORMANCE
NEW MEDIA
FILM
BIENNALE

EMBARGO UNTIL TUESDAY MARCH 3, 2015 3:00 PM

***Vancouver, Canada.* The Vancouver Biennale brings together JUNO® Award-winning Canadian composer Vivian Fung and the GRAMMY® and JUNO® Award-winning Vancouver Symphony Orchestra for the world premiere performance of a commissioned work inspired by the Vancouver Biennale exhibition. The performance will be part of the VSO's 2015-2016 season opening concert, and will launch live music as part of the Biennale program, further fulfilling on its vision to celebrate the full spectrum of Contemporary arts in one integrated exhibition.**

“Apropos of the Biennale itself and our curatorial theme Open Borders Crossroads Vancouver, Vivian is known for crossing traditional boundaries and exploring a diversity of cultures in her music”, says President and Artistic Director Barrie Mowatt. “She has created an exhilarating sound portrait of our exhibition, brilliantly interpreting several of our public artworks into music”.

Five distinct artworks by renowned Contemporary artists from China, Brazil, India and Australia featured in the current Biennale exhibition, including “*F Grass*” by Ai Weiwei and “*Giants*” by OSGEMEOS, are the inspiration for the multi-movement work. The result is a wonderfully textured musical celebration of the Vancouver Biennale by one of Canada’s “must hear” Contemporary composers.

The Biennale is equally excited to be partnering for the first time with the VSO under the leadership of Maestro Bramwell Tovey. The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra performs the world premiere as part of its GOLDCORP Masterworks Gold series opening concert on Saturday September 26th. Tickets are available online through the VSO at www.vancouversymphony.ca, or by calling VSO Customer Service at 604-876-3434.

September will mark the beginning of the Vancouver Biennale incorporating live music performance into its exhibition. The CineFest LIVE program will feature a series of inspiring documentary films about music and the starring musicians will perform live in concert after each screening. Stay tuned for program announcements and online ticket sales.

ABOUT VIVIAN FUNG

JUNO Award-winning Canadian composer Vivian Fung has a talent for combining idiosyncratic textures and styles into large-scale works, often including influences such as non-Western folk music, gamelan touches, Tibetan chant, and tango music, sometimes in the same composition.

Ms. Fung’s most recent premiere was *The Voices Inside My Head* for three percussion, commissioned by the Bowdoin International Music Festival for its 50th Anniversary. Her

other recent commissions include *Violin Concerto No. 2*, commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, which premiered during the TSO's New Creations Festival in Feb. 2015 with Jonathan Crow, violin; and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa, Canada.

Notable performances in the 2014-15 season include *String Quartet No. 3*, to be toured by the Dover Quartet as part of their Banff International String Quartet Competition winner's tour; the European premiere of *Dust Devils* by the Staatskapelle Karlsruhe with Mei-Ann Chen conducting; performances of *Violin Concerto No.1* by the Milwaukee Symphony and violinist Kristin Lee; *Aqua* with the Edmonton Symphony; the West Coast premiere of *Harp Concerto* with harpist Bridget Kibbey and the San Jose Chamber Orchestra; and *Birdsong* at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center in New York.

Ms. Fung's music has been embraced as part of the core repertoire by many distinguished artists and ensembles around the world. Conductors that Ms. Fung has collaborated with include Mei-Ann Chen, Gerard Schwarz, Peter Oundjian, Justin Brown, Andrew Cyr, Case Scaglione, and Steven Schick. *Glimpses* for prepared piano has been championed by a diverse group of pianists, including Margaret Leng Tan, Conor Hanick, Jenny Lin, and Bryan Wagorn. Ms. Fung's orchestral and chamber works have also been performed by the Shanghai String Quartet, Ying Quartet, Chicago Sinfonietta, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Alabama Symphony, Suwon Chorale of South Korea, and American Opera Projects, to name a few.

In 2012, Naxos Canadian Classics released the world premiere recording of Ms. Fung's *Violin Concerto*, Piano Concerto "*Dreamscapes*," and *Glimpses* for prepared piano. The *Violin Concerto* earned Ms. Fung a 2013 JUNO Award for "Classical Composition of the Year." Several of Ms. Fung's works have also been released commercially on the Telarc, Cedille, Innova, and Signpost labels.

Ms. Fung traveled to Southwest China in 2012 for ethno-musicological research to study minority music and cultures in the Yunnan province, continuing research that previously inspired *Yunnan Folk Songs* (2011), commissioned by Fulcrum Point New Music in Chicago with support from the MAP Fund. Following the March, 2011, world premiere, The Chicago Tribune wrote, "Yunnan Folk Songs stood out... [with] a winning rawness that went beyond exoticism." As a composer whose travels often inspire her music, Ms. Fung has also explored diverse cultures in North Vietnam, Spain, and Bali, Indonesia. Ms. Fung toured Bali in 2010 and competed in the Bali Arts Festival as an ensemble member and composer in Gamelan Dharma Swara.

Ms. Fung has received numerous awards and grants, including the 2012 Simon Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts' Gregory Millard



VANCOUVER
SCULPTURE
PERFORMANCE
NEW MEDIA
FILM
BIENNALE

Fellowship, ASCAP, BMI, American Music Center, MAP Fund, Music Alive! and the League of American Orchestras, American Composers' Forum, and the Canada Council for the Arts. Ms. Fung is an associate composer of the Canadian Music Centre.

Born in Edmonton, Canada, Ms. Fung began her composition studies with composer Violet Archer and later studied with Narcis Bonet in Paris, France. She received her doctorate from The Juilliard School in New York, where her mentors included David Diamond and Robert Beaser. She was a faculty member at Juilliard from 2002 to 2010, and currently lives in San Francisco with her husband Charles Boudreau and their Shiba Inu dog named Mulan.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Vancouver Symphony Orchestra was founded in 1919 as a not-for-profit Society and is the largest arts organization west of Ontario, and the third largest symphony in Canada. Performing over 150 concerts annually to 262,000 people, including 50,000 children and young adults, the purpose of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra is to enrich and transform lives through music by presenting passionate, high-quality performances of classical, popular and culturally diverse music, creating meaningful engagement with audiences of all ages and backgrounds wherever we perform and developing and delivering inspirational education and community programs.

ABOUT THE VANCOUVER BIENNALE

The Vancouver Biennale is a non-profit charitable organization that celebrates art in public space. Each exhibition transforms the urban landscape into an Open Air Museum, creating globally inspired cultural experiences where people live, work, play, and transit. The Biennale features internationally renowned and emerging contemporary artists that represent a diversity of cultural perspectives and artistic disciplines including sculpture, new media, performance works, music and film. The objective is to use great art as a catalyst to dialogue, learning and social action. For more information, visit www.vancouverbiennale.com.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Facebook: VancouverBiennale
Twitter: @Van_Biennale
Instagram: @Van_Biennale
#VanBiennale

MEDIA CONTACT

Miriam Blume
Miriam@vancouverbiennale.com
604-730-0540

290 WEST 3RD AVE VANCOUVER BC CANADA V5Y 1G1
P: 604 682 1289 F: 604 707 1109

VANCOUVERBIENNALE.COM