

Biography

At the forefront of the younger generation American composers, WANG JIE has emerged as one of the most distinctive musical voices. Ranging from elegant to campy, her works are powerfully engaging, richly orchestrated and rhythmically vibrant. One day she spins a few notes into large music forms, the next she calls Zodiac animals to the opera stage – a rare trait in today's composers.

Born in Shanghai shortly after the Culture Revolution, Ms. Wang was raised in an era of breathtaking economic and cultural expansion. She was a known piano prodigy by the age of five. A scholarship from Manhattan School of Music brought her to the US where she began her composition studies under the tutelage of Nils Vigeland and later with Richard Danielpour at the Curtis Institute of Music..

While a student, her tragic opera NANNAN was showcased by New York City Opera's annual VOX festival. This led to the production of her chamber opera FLOWN, a meditation on lovers who must part, by Music-Theatre Group. The Emily Dickenson inspired song cycle I DIED FOR BEAUTY was featured at the opening ceremony of Beijing Modern Music Festival. Her piano trio SHADOW dramatizes the inner life of an autistic child. It was featured by the New Juilliard Ensemble at the Museum of Modern Art and was subsequently presented by Continuum at Merkin Hall's "China in America"..

Not yet 30 years old, Ms Wang won the coveted Underwood Commission, and her concert opera FROM THE OTHER SKY was the centerpiece of the American Composers Orchestra's season opening concert at Carnegie Hall. During that same year, the Minnesota Orchestra, led by Osmo Vanska, performed her SYMPHONY NO.1 as part of "Future Classics" series. Most recently, SYMPHONY NO.2, commissioned and premiered by Detroit Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin was streamed live to global audiences. OBOE CONCERTO, co-commissioned by The Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress and The League of Composers Orchestra, premiered at NYC's Miller Theater with NY Philharmonic's principle oboist Liang Wang as the Soloist.

From the beginning of her career, Jie has won enthusiastic critical response. The New York Times described FROM THE OTHER SKY as "clear, lucid and evocative", and OBOE CONCERTO as "interesting things to say and intriguing ways to say them". Classicalsource.com thought her concert opera to be "far more fun than one is supposed to have at a concert of 'serious' music". Minnesota's Pioneer Press claimed that SYMPHONY NO.1 is

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"self-assured" and "fascinating." Reviewers have cited her music as "introspective" (The New York Times) and "scrupulously crafted composition that embraces both Chinese and Western modern classical expression" (Pittsburgh Times Review).

In addition to her successes in concert halls, Ms Wang was named a Schumann fellow at the Aspen Music Festival where she studied with Christopher Rouse and Marc-Andre Dalbavie in the Master Class program, and a McCracken Fellow at the NYU Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Other honors include multiple ASCAP awards, citations from BMI, Opera America, American Music Center, the Pittsburgh New Music Ensemble, a Charles Ives Scholarship from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, most recently a Koussevitzky Prize from the Library of Congress and the Elaine Lebonbom Prize from Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Visit Wang Jie's Catalog: www.wangjiemusic.com

Visit Wang Jie's Opera Works: www.operawangjie.com

Education

Artist Diploma, [Curtis Institute of Music](#)

Master of Music, [Manhattan School of Music](#)

Bachelor of Music, [Manhattan School of Music](#)

Private Studies, [Shanghai Conservatory of Music](#)



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Wang Jie

Opera Works

- NANNAN, Two Acts, Singers and Orchestra
- FLOWN, Four Parts, Singers, Violin, Cello, Piano and 2 Percussion
- FROM THE OTHER SKY, Three Scenes and a Postlude, Singers and Orchestra
- FROM THE LAND FALLEN*, Two Acts, Singers and Orchestra
- FAREWELL MY CONCUBINE*, Two Acts, Singers and Orchestra

* Work in Development



Wang Jie during rehearsal of Symphony No.1 at the Minnesota Orchestra



Wang Jie, the composer and keyboard soloist, was costumed as the Monkey during the premiere of FROM THE OTHER SKY at Carnegie Hall.

Vocal Works

- A SILENCE OLDER THAN LOVE, 10', Sopr, Violin, Violoncello and Piano
- A NEW HOME, 7', Sopr. & Piano
- A PRAYER, 13', Sopr. & Piano
- A LONGING FOR SPRING, 12', Sopr, Vln, Cl & Pno.
- IN WIND THEY CLEAVE, 15', Soprano, Baritone, Piano, Percussion, Violin, Cello
- THE ANIMAL CARNIVAL, 15', Soprano and String Quartet
- SWAMP'S SHORE, 7', Soprano and Orchestra
- DEER-CRY, 15', Soprano, Pipa and Chamber Orchestra
- I DIED FOR BEAUTY, 11', Baritone, Vibraphone and Piano
- FROM THE OTHER SKY, 17', Singers and Orchestra

Recent Commissions

- Detroit Symphony Orchestra
- Aspen Music Festival
- Co-commission: Orchestra of the League of Composers and Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress
- Opera America
- Joshua Roman and Townhall Seattle
- Continuum
- American Composers Orchestra
- Music-Theatre Group
- Presser Foundation: Resonance of Amity

"clear, lucid and evocative"

- The New York Times

"scrupulously crafted composition that embraces both Chinese and Western modern classical expression"

- The Pittsburgh Tribune

"She is certainly an artist to watch."

- The New York Times



Wang Jie's From the Other Sky is far more fun than one is supposed to have at a concert of 'serious' music. This charming multimedia-comic-opera-meets-song-cycle in four scenes was presented in a semi-staged version with computer-controlled background projections. The completely original story by the

composer is based on characters from the Chinese zodiac ... Wang Jie (who was also costumed and a part of the dramatic action) is a solid pianist – and quite the character. The music, written in a completely approachable style, perfectly suits the story's fairytale-with-a-modern-twist mood. I can't wait to hear more of Wang Jie's music.

- www.classicalsource.com



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- The Minnesota's Pioneer Press

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- The New York Times