

Ying WANG – Composer

"I live and form my identity as a contemporary composer from China with a keen and critical eye on the entanglements of politics, culture, society and technology and their consequences. I am looking for a contrasting and multishaped combination of my three major tools: the traditional instruments of the European music and their extended techniques, the critical examination of my Chinese heritage and the current possibilities of electronics. In my music I transform the world of today, its crises and tragedies, as well as its beauty and diversity - there is screaming criticism and delightful admiration for this world in my music."

Ying WANG

In her compositions, Ying Wang deals with topics such as environmental pollution, global social grievances, political persecution and human relationships with technology. Coming from Shanghai she first went to Cologne and then to Berlin. She established herself as a composer who critically reflects and re-thinks chamber and orchestral music. Her original homeland China, as well as her new one in Berlin, form a contrast that is thematically and musically part of her works.

She is currently working on her music theater "Lorry 39" for the Theater Freiburg and the SWR Experimentalstudio. The impetus for this work was the tragic death of 39 lives in a freight container - topics such as human smuggling, flight and migration, symptoms of inequality and globalization have been on her mind ever since. Also in the making are "Bin" for aluminum cello, video and electronics and the double concerto "Dark Mirror" for bass clarinet, electric guitar, orchestra, electronics, light and two video panels, 2024. Further larger ensemble pieces are in the planning. In her work she is always looking for new links to other media and arts, such as dance, video, digital art, light, visual arts and performance.

Wang has collaborated with numerous orchestras across Europe and Asia, including the Deutsche Radio Philharmonie, SWR Symphonieorchester, Gürzenich Orchester, Brandenburg Symphony Orchestra, ORF Radio Symphonie Orchester Wien, Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin, Avanti!-Orchestra Helsinki, Philharmonic Orchestra Giessen, Theater and Philharmonic Orchestra Heidelberg. He has worked alongside conductors such as Markus Stenz, Brad Lubman, Karen Kamensek, Gregor A. Mayrhofer, Marcus Creed, Johannes Kalitzke, Marin Alsop, as well as with ensembles like Phoenix Basel, Lucerne Festival Ensemble, Quatuor Diotima, Ensemble Resonanz, Ensemble UnitedBerlin, Klangforum Heidelberg, Ensemble Mosaik, Ensemble LUX:NM, Ensemble PHACE, Ensemble Reflektor and Ensemble KlangforumWien.

Recognized with numerous prestigious awards and scholarships, Wang's achievements speak volumes. In 2013, she was honored with both the Giga-Hertz Prize and the Composer Prize at the 5th Brandenburg Biennale. Alongside the IEMA scholarship in 2009/10, she received scholarships from the Experimental Studio of the SWR, the Federal Ministry of Vienna, and, on Peter Eötvös's recommendation, from the Herrenhaus Edenkoben. Her acclaim continued with the 35th Irino Prize for chamber orchestra in Tokyo in 2014. Invited as a "composer in residence" by Deutschlandfunk to the "Forum Neuer Musik" festival in Cologne in 2015, she further solidified her contributions to the musical landscape. In 2017, she was bestowed with the 30th Heidelberg Artist Prize. Subsequently, in 2020, she earned a scholarship from the German Academy in Rome, followed by the "Civitella Ranieri" scholarship in Italy, Perugia in 2022, and in 2023, the prestigious international Villa Concordia residency in Bamberg.

Ying WANG completed her composition studies with York Höller, Rebecca Saunders and Johannes Schöllhorn and she studied electronic composition with Michael Beil. In 2010 she completed a master's degree in contemporary music at the Frankfurt University of Music and Performing Arts as part of a scholarship from the International Ensemble Modern Academy (IEMA). In 2012 she took part in the Cursus de Composition et d'informatique musicale / Ircam Paris.

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