


2017

Forest Threnody

Yii Kah Hoe
SEGi College Subang Jaya, Malaysia

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Forest Threnody

Cover Page Footnote

Yii Kah Hoe is a Malaysian composer and Chinese dizi player. Yii was the winner of 11th BOH Cameronian Arts Awards (best music and design 2014), the 2007 Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra Forum for Malaysian Composers 2 and a recipient of the 3rd Prize in the International Composition for Chinese Orchestra organized by Singapore Chinese Orchestra (2006). He was the Finalist of International Composers Competition "Città di Udine" (Italy, 2010). Yii's music is bold and avant-garde. His works use sounds and rhythms of many traditional instruments from various ethnic cultures. The sensitivity of space that he mastered as an artist (Fine art) in his younger years is also evident in his music. Besides working artistically as a musician and composer, Yii also engaged in music education and the organization of a contemporary music collective, concerts and a festival in Kuala Lumpur, contributing intellectually and socially in the field. Yii was the festival director of Kuala Lumpur Contemporary Music Festival 2009, the festival director of SoundBridge festival 2013, and the vice president of Society of Malaysian Contemporary Composers. Yii is a senior lecturer at SEGi College Subang Jaya, Malaysia since 2000.

Forest Threnody

Yii Kah Hoe

Yii Kah Hoe's *Forest Threnody*, which received its world premiere on November 1, 2015 in Garrison Theater at Scripps College, Claremont CA, was performed by the Claremont Concert Choir and Claremont Chamber Choir of CMC, Harvey Mudd, Pitzer and Scripps Colleges. The composition is for two sopranos and choir and is a collaborative work that evokes and reflects on environmental destruction in Malaysian Borneo. Frogs' calling sounds were recorded from Borneo by Jennifer A. Sheridan of Yale-NUS College and threaded throughout the composition, that was also accompanied by a Steve Rowell video showing the deforestation of Borneo. "If my work doesn't function powerfully as music," Yii observes, "then all the poetic program notes and extra-musical justifications in the world mean nothing. When I'm true to the music, when I let the music be whatever it wants to be, then everything else — including any social or political meaning — will follow."

For discussions about the impact of Yii's workshops in Claremont as part of the launch of the EnviroLab Asia initiative, see:

1. Yii Kae Hoe and Workshop for Change: <https://www.cmc.edu/news/envirolab-asia-sheds-light-on-environmental-destruction-occurring-on-massive-scale>
2. Yii Kae Hoe and the Awakening to the Environment concert: <http://envirolabasia.claremont.edu/malaysian-composer-and-environmental-activist-yii-kah-hoe-leaves-deep-impression-at-claremont-colleges/>

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Yii Kah Hoe's Website: <http://www.yiikahhoe.com/>

Forest Threnody (excerpt): <https://soundcloud.com/yiikahhoe/forest-threnody-for-2-sopranos-and-choir-excerpt>