



SOPRANO
Robyn Driedger-Klassen



CONDUCTOR
Berislav Šipuš

IN THE DISTANCE

NEW MUSIC FROM CROATIA

May 16 – 7:30pm | May 17 – 2:00pm

At the SFU Fei and Milton Wong
Experimental Theatre, 149 W Hastings St

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PUSH FESTIVAL 2020 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SFU WOODWARD'S CULTURAL PROGRAMS

FLYING WHITE-飞白

TURNING POINT ENSEMBLE & WEN WEI DANCE

Jan 31 – 7:30pm | Feb 1 – 7:30pm | Feb 2 – 2:00pm

At the SFU Fei and Milton Wong
Experimental Theatre, 149 W Hastings St

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Artistic Statement

"Flying white" is a rare and extraordinary form of Chinese calligraphy that jumps and leaps on the paper surface in graceful beautiful strokes, the black ink revealing a white background. The motion and aesthetic of the calligraphy, and various manifestations of elemental forces represented by paper, ink, and silk form a backdrop for the interweaving of dance and music that unfolds in stages throughout the work.

Searching within, the piece explores the space between black and white, inhale and exhale, east and west, life and death, and sound and movement.

Co-created by: Wen Wei Wang (Artistic Director of Wen Wei Dance), Owen Underhill (Composer, Artistic Director of Turning Point Ensemble), Dorothy Chang (Composer)

Co-presented by: PuSh International Performing Arts Festival and Turning Point Ensemble

Co-produced by: SFU Woodward's Cultural Programs as part of their 10th Anniversary, Turning Point Ensemble, and Wen Wei Dance

With additional support from: Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra Taipei

We recognize that this concert is taking place on unceded Indigenous land belonging to the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x̣ẉməθkwəỵəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō (Stolo), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Wautuh) Nations.

Flying white – 飞白

Choreography - Wen Wei Wang
Music - Dorothy Chang and Owen Underhill

Part 1 - Body and Sound

Breath/Balance - Dorothy Chang
Dai-Lin Hsieh, guzheng & dancers

Assemblage - Owen Underhill
Kimberley Kistler, solo cello; music ensemble & dancers, Eowynn Enquist, Sarah Formosa, Daria Mikhaylyuk

The Impossible Return - Owen Underhill
Kimberley Kistler, solo cello; music ensemble & dancers, Dario Dinuzzi, Matthew Wyllie

Wild Grass - Dorothy Chang
Jonathan Bernard, percussion & dancers

Intermission

Part II - Silk and Ink

***He is Flying** - Owen Underhill
Ling-Hsuan Shen, sheng; Lan Tung, erhu; Kuang-Chih Cheng; erhu & dancers

Silken air, soft light - Dorothy Chang
music ensemble & dancers

Angularity - Dorothy Chang
music ensemble & dancers

Black Ink/White Paper - Owen Underhill
music ensemble & dancer, Ralph Escamillan

**in memory of the composer's father, Reg Underhill*

Turning Point Ensemble

Founded in 2002 by its musician members, Turning Point Ensemble (TPE) is a large chamber ensemble (16 instrumentalists and conductor) with a mandate to increase the understanding and appreciation of music composed during the past hundred years. The ensemble has built a strong reputation for outstanding musicianship and linking seminal 20th century repertoire to contemporary works through thoughtful programming and innovative presentations. Uniquely and flexibly sized between a small chamber ensemble and a symphonic orchestra, TPE presentations offer a symphonic palette with a chamber music sensibility. In addition to its concerts, tours and recordings, the ensemble has regularly mounted innovative interdisciplinary productions including operas, and collaborations with dance, theatre, visual art and moving image.

Turning Point Ensemble has released six cds and one DVD on the Artifact, Centrediscs, Atma Classique, Redshift Records, Orlando, and Parma labels. We are proud to have presented a diverse range of repertoire, commissioned and performed works by Canadian and international composers, and partnered with a number of community and cultural organizations.



Photo by Emily Cooper

Wen Wei Dance

Wen Wei Dance's work reflects a multiplicity of dance and social experiences. Each creation is influenced by the evolution of personal identity, and strives to reflect the underlying experience of social, cultural and personal development. Wen Wei Dance creates provocative performances of a distinctive trans-cultural sensibility. With a highly individual style, Artistic Director Wen Wei Wang fuses precise choreography with stunning visual design and music, turning each work into a rich and unique world.

Since 2003 the company has created a repertoire of full-length works including *Ying Yun*, *Dialogue*, *Made in China*, *7th Sense*, *Cock-Pit* (Rio Tinto Alcan Performing Arts Award winner), *Under the Skin* (co-created with the Beijing Modern Dance Company), *Three Sixty Five*, *Unbound* (Isadora Award for Excellence in Choreography winner), *One Man's*, and *Tao*. Wen Wei Dance has performed these acclaimed works across Canada and at festivals around the world, including Canada Dance Festival, International Contemporary Dance Festival in Colombia, and the Venice Biennale in Italy.



Photo by Emily Cooper

The Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra

The Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra (“LGCCO”) was founded in October 2000 by its artistic director and conductor Chih-Sheng Chen. The LGCCO has since matured into an ensemble of both technical and artistic proficiency. A strong musical force in Taiwan, it represents a new generation of Chinese orchestral music. It strives to demonstrate the energy and passion of its dedicated musicians with every performance. The LGCCO breathes new life into an art form that holds ancient roots, and devotes itself to promoting Chinese music on the world stage.

The LGCCO offers a full season of approximately thirty concerts a year at the prestigious National Concert Hall in Taiwan, presenting both the full orchestra of over one hundred musicians and smaller chamber ensembles throughout the year. In recent years, the orchestra has presented large-scale interdisciplinary projects, combining theatre and multimedia with orchestral music.



Photo by Emily Cooper

Owen Underhill - Artistic Director of TPE

Owen Underhill is a Canadian composer and conductor who lives in Vancouver where he is Artistic Director of the Turning Point Ensemble and a faculty member in the School for the Contemporary Arts at Simon Fraser University. As a composer, Underhill writes for diverse combinations including orchestra, voice and choir, a wide variety of chamber music, and interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaborations. Recent works include his Bee Studies (with Vancouver poet Renée Sarojini Saklikar) and premiered by Dory Hayley and the Turning Point Ensemble in March 2019. Upcoming performances include the premiere of his Gaudi Madrigals, composed for musica intima, on April 24th.

As a conductor, Underhill has conducted over 250 premieres with organizations such as the Turning Point Ensemble, Cantus Ensemble (Croatia), CBC Radio Orchestra, National Arts Centre Orchestra and Vancouver Intercultural Orchestra.

Wen Wei Wang - Artistic Director of Wen Wei Dance and Choreographer

Wen Wei Wang began dancing at an early age in China, where he was born and raised. He trained and danced professionally with the Langzhou Song and Dance Company. In 1991, he came to Canada and joined the Judith Marcuse Dance Company, followed by seven years dancing with Ballet BC. In 2000, he received the Clifford E. Lee Choreographic Award and since then has choreographed for the Alberta Ballet, Ballet BC, Ballet Jorgen, North West Dance Projects, the Vancouver and San Francisco Operas, and Ballet Jazz de Montreal. Wang received the 2006 Isadora Award for Excellence in Choreography, the 2009 Rio Tinto Alcan Performing Arts Award, the 2013 Chrystal Dance Prize, and a 2013 RBC Top 25 Canadian Immigrants Award. In 2003, he founded Wen Wei Dance and has since choreographed eleven full-length works for the company.

Wen Wei Wang is an Associate Dance Artist of the National Arts Centre and the Artistic Director of Ballet Edmonton since 2018.

Dorothy Chang - Composer

Described as “evocative and kaleidoscopic”, the music of Dorothy Chang often reflects an eclectic mix of musical influences ranging from popular and folk music to elements of traditional Chinese music. Many of her works are inspired by place, time, memory and personal histories. Dorothy’s interest in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary collaboration has led to projects including a musical radio play, works involving staging, movement and dance, and numerous compositions for mixed Chinese and Western ensembles.

Dorothy’s music has been featured in concerts and festivals across North America and abroad, with performances by the Albany, Calgary Philharmonic, Indianapolis, Manitoba Chamber, Pittsburgh, Saint Paul Chamber, Seattle, Toronto, Vancouver, Vancouver Island and Victoria Symphony Orchestras, and by chamber ensembles including eighth blackbird, Smith Quartet, the Chicago Saxophone Quartet, Chai Found Music Workshop (Taiwan) and Music from China, among others. From 2005-2008 she served as a Music Alive composer-in-residence with the Albany Symphony Orchestra in New York.

In 2003, Dorothy joined the music faculty at the University of British Columbia, where she currently serves as a Professor of Music.

Dancers from Wen Wei Dance:

Dario Dinuzzi
Eowynn Enquist
Ralph Escamillan
Sarah Formosa
Daria Mikhaylyuk
Matthew Wyllie

Musicians from Turning Point Ensemble and Little Giant Chinese Chamber Orchestra:

Paolo Bortolussi - Flute/Piccolo/Alto Flute
Liam Hockley - Clarinet/Bass Clarinet
Jesse Read - Bassoon
Kinneret Sieradzki - Violin
Kimberley Kistler - Cello
Jeremy Berkman - Trombone
Jonathan Bernard - Percussion
Janelle Nadeau - Harp
Ling-Hsuan Shen - Sheng
Pei-Ling Chang - Pipa
Dai-Lin Hsieh - Guzheng
Lan Tung - Erhu
Kuang-Chih Cheng - Erhu

Composers - Owen Underhill & Dorothy Chang

Choreography - Wen Wei Wang in collaboration with Dancers

Lighting Designer - Jonathan Kim

Costume Designer - Linda Chow

Scenic Design Consultant/Technical Director - Mark Eugster

Production and Stage Manager - Kimberly Plough

TPE Staff

Artistic Director - Owen Underhill
General Manager - Fleur Sweetman
Director of Education & Outreach - Jeremy Berkman

TPE Production

Bonnie Allan - Publicity
Charmaine Cheng - Graphic Designer

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Maggie Quirk - Member at large

Wen Wei Dance Staff

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Francesca Piscopo - Producer & Agent
Sabine Rouques - Associate Producer
Katherine Chan - Communications & Marketing
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Lo McEwan - Fundraising Coordinator
Kevin Locsin - Administration Coordinator

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Little Giant Chamber Orchestra

Chih-Sheng Chen - Music Director

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