

Victoria Cheah

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Education

- 2010-present **Brandeis University**
 Ph.D. candidate in music composition and theory. Full university fellowship.
 Composition studies with Yu-Hui Chang, David Rakowski, Eric Chasalow. ABD status.
- 2006-2010 **Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, City University of New York**
 Full merit scholarship for four years. Scholarship includes full tuition, housing, substantial grant for study abroad programs, priority registration and laptop computer.
 Private studies in composition with Shafer Mahoney, piano with Geoffrey Burleson, and voice with Norma Newton. **Majors:** Special Honors, Music. **Concentrations:** Music composition, Literature. **Minor:** American History. Graduated June 2010, B.A. magna cum laude.
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| 2006-2010 | Macaulay Honors College Scholar |
| 2007-2010 | Thomas Hunter Honors Program |
| 2006-2010 | Dean's List |

Festivals, Workshops, Residencies

- 2016 **Nes Artist Residency**
 Joint artist residency in Skagaströnd, Iceland with collaborator Gleb Kanasevich.
- 2015 **Sommerakademie Schloss Solitude**
 Participant in summer academy (Stuttgart, Germany) with Chaya Czernowin, Ming Tsao, Rebecca Saunders, and ensemble SurPlus.
- Contemporary Encounters Meitar Ensemble**
 Participant in summer academy/festival with Philippe Leroux, Pierre-Andre Valade, Meitar Ensemble in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- 2014 **Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt 2014**
 Participant in "Composition beyond Music" workshop with Peter Ablinger. Presented and developed a new work (**studiolo**) in an official group show at the Orangerie on August 10, Darmstadt, Germany.
- Residency at Avaloch Farm Institute**
 With Trio de Kooning to develop new work (*TE*).
- 2011 **American Academy of Music at Fontainebleau**
 Summer festival for composers, performers and architects in Fontainebleau, France.
 Masterclasses and lessons with François Paris, Allain Gaussin, Richard Danielpour, Isabelle Duha. Premiere of *repent*, for string quartet.
- 2011 **Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice**
 Summer festival for composers and performers held at New England Conservatory.
 Masterclasses and lessons with Tristan Murail. Premiere of *AEAEA*, for ensemble.
- 2010 **Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice**
 Summer festival for composers and performers held at New England Conservatory.
 Masterclasses and lessons with Chaya Czernowin. Premiere of *Elasticity*, for ensemble.
- 2009 **The European American Musical Alliance**
 Summer festival for pre-professional musicians in Paris.
- 2009 **Composition Workshop at Conservatoire de Blanc-Mesnil**
 Week-long international summer festival for composers in Blanc-Mesnil, France with faculty Philippe Leroux, John Rea, Aaron Einbond and Ensemble Cairn.
- 2005- 2006 **The Walden School**
 Summer composition festival for students ages 9-18 years.
 Studied with Aurora Nealand, Jim Altieri, Renee Favand and Shawn Crouch.

Awards, Honors, Commissions

- 2016 **University Prize Instructorship**
Awarded opportunity to develop and teach an upper-level undergraduate course: “Risk and Experimentation in Music” at Brandeis (university wide competition).
- 2015 **Commission from Marilyn Nonken** for solo scordatura piano.
Commission from Stephen Marotto for solo cello.
Provost’s Dissertation Award
Max Kade Research Grant
GSA Travel and Research Grant
Mellon Dissertation Research Grant
- 2013 **Commission from Trio de Kooning**
Commission for a new work for international string trio Trio de Kooning (Clara Kim, violin; Hannah Shaw, viola; Joann Whang, cello).
Anna Walinska Prize (Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts)
Awarded for site-specific sculpture, *mirror mirror*.
Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts Grant
Awarded grant for the creation of site-specific sculpture, *mirror mirror*, at Brandeis University.
Commission from Transient Canvas
Commission for a new work for Boston duo Transient Canvas (Amy Advocat, clarinet, and Matt Sharrock, marimba).
Commission from Acoustic Uproar
Commission for a new work by new music concert series Acoustic Uproar. *Offertory* (2013), for flute and clarinet.
Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award 2012-2013
Awarded for excellent service in teaching as a doctoral fellow at Brandeis University. Taught small group sections for Orchestration (Fall 2012) and Undergraduate Composition (Spring 2013) under professor David Rakowski.
- 2012 **Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts Grant**
Awarded grant for the creation of site-specific sound/sculptural installation, *stroke*, at Brandeis University.
- 2011 **Scholarship to attend American Academy of Music at Fontainebleau**
Scholarship covering 75% of costs to attend the American Academy at Fontainebleau.
- 2010 **Victoria Moss Bittman Prize**
From the Hunter College department of music for excellence in music.
- 2006 **The Walden School/PRISM Saxophone Quartet Commissioning Prize**
Co-commission from The Walden School and the PRISM Saxophone Quartet.

Employment History**April 2015 – present**ScoreFollower / Incipitsfy
Co-director, Curator

Co-director for organization that promotes and provides access to recordings and scores of contemporary music free of charge. Responsibilities include curating content and collections, non-profit duties, budget, and more.

September 2011 – presentBrandeis University
Instructor, Teaching Assistant

Awarded University Prize Instructorship, Spring 2016 to teach and design contemporary music course. Instructor for required freshman academic writing seminar (2016-2017, Spring 2014) and aural skills class (2015-2017, 2013-2014, 2011-2012). Teaching assistant for Orchestration (Fall 2012), Undergraduate Composition (Spring 2013), and special course Embodiment of the Voice with Creative Arts Award recipient Tony Arnold (Spring 2016).

- September 2015 – present** Brandeis University
Assistant Concert Manager
Assistant concert manager for Music Department events at Slosberg Recital Hall. Duties include scheduling, managing concert staff during events, stage managing, artist relations, receptions, and more.
- January 2016 – May 2016** Harvard University
Teaching Fellow
Teaching fellow and section leader for Music 2: Fundamentals of Music and Music 151: Tonal Analysis.
- February 2014 – May 2016** Longy School of Music at Bard College
Faculty
Instructor for required graduate-level Research and Materials course and Graduate Music History Review.
- January 2015 – present** I Care If You Listen
Guest contributor
Feature-length article about Impuls festival in Graz, Austria published in I Care If You Listen magazine.
- January 2011 – April 2015** Sound Icon
Executive Director
Co-founder and executive director of Boston-based contemporary music sinfonietta Sound Icon. Duties and responsibilities include strategic vision, fundraising, grant and proposal writing, scheduling, contracting, budgets, accounting, publicity, tax filing, leading the process of non-profit incorporation and general administrative work.
- July 2012 – August 2014** Composit New Music Festival
Operations and Ensemble Coordinator
Responsibilities include scheduling, distribution of materials from/to students and performers, artist relations, logistics and administrative work for summer music festival in Rieti, Italy.
- September 2012 – January 2013** Boston Ballet
Annual Fund Intern
Responsibilities include drafting documents for use by Development team (both internal and external use, including marketing materials), administrative work, updating Tessitura database, and more.
- September 2010 – April 2011** Brandeis University BEAMS Electronic Music Marathon
Stage Manager, Public Relations Manager
Organized and realized stage set-ups, equipment and logistics for 12-hour marathon concert. Also led publicity efforts for BEAMS Electronic Music Marathon.
- September 2008 – June 2010** Hunter College Reading Writing Center
Peer writing tutor
Worked an average of 8 hours a week with students at Hunter College on writing skills: organization, clarity, grammar and reading.
- September 2009 – June 2010** Argento New Music Project
Production Assistant, Stage Manager
Worked with contemporary music ensemble conducted by Michel Galante. Stage and production manager at venues such as Park Avenue Armory and Le Poisson Rouge.
- January 2008 – April 2009** Manhattan Sinfonietta
Administrative/Production Assistant
Internship with contemporary music ensemble conducted by Jeffrey Milarsky. Lead production manager for several events and administrative intern.

Courses Taught:**University Prize Instructorship: Risk and Experimentation in Music**

Awarded opportunity to design and teach upper-level undergraduate course in Spring 2017. Course explores contemporary art music that challenges aspects of the classical music establishment, from musical material, to extramusical subject, to physical experience (and more). Course goals include development of open-minded critical listening / discussion skills and familiarity with contemporary repertoire / concepts. Course aim is to consider contemporary music as a starting point for discussion of social, political, and aesthetic concerns that extend beyond music-specific discussions, while engaging with evidence and reasoning from the music itself.

University Writing Seminar: Minimalism – Art Stripped Bare

Graduate student instructor at Brandeis University. Developed own course concept and syllabus within University Writing Seminar guidelines for required undergraduate freshman academic writing course. Focus on basic academic writing skills (organization, clarity, close reading, research techniques, bibliography, etc.) through reading-based discussion of American minimalist art and music.

University Writing Seminar: Empire State of Mind: New York through Music

Graduate student instructor at Brandeis University. Developed own course concept and syllabus within University Writing Seminar guidelines for required undergraduate freshman academic writing course. Focus on basic academic writing skills (organization, clarity, close reading, research techniques, bibliography, etc) through reading-based discussion of aesthetic, political, sociological issues raised by music by New York musicians or about New York City.

Music Theory Lab I and II

Graduate student instructor at Brandeis University. Focus on skills including sight-singing, rhythm, dictation (melodic, harmonic, rhythmic), listening, conducting, and more.

Research and Materials of Music

Instructor at Longy School of Music at Bard College. Graduate-level course focuses on writing and speaking about music, with an emphasis on research techniques and writing.

Graduate Music History Review

Instructor at Longy School of Music at Bard College. Graduate-level course reviewing the history of Western classical music from antiquity to the present.

Undergraduate Orchestration

Course assistant. Worked with students to refine skills in orchestration through individual assignments in small (2-3) groups weekly.

Undergraduate Composition

Course assistant. Worked with students to develop new compositions, with focus on pacing and clarity.

Embodiment of the Voice

Course assistant. Production, process, and creative course taught by Tony Arnold, recipient of 2015 Creative Arts Award at Brandeis University.

Music 2: Fundamentals of Music

Teaching fellow at Harvard University. Led section in music theory and aural skills.

Music 151: Tonal Analysis

Teaching fellow at Harvard University. Led section in a collaborative research project.

Other Skills

Software ability: Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Sibelius, Finale, Logic, ProTools, MaxMSP, Soundforge, Logic, Audiosculpt, OpenMusic, Tessitura. Basic carpentry and welding skills. Strong hand and machine sewing skills. Formal study of piano, voice, erhu, guzheng. Conversational French and basic Mandarin Chinese. Reading ability in French, German, Latin.

Selected List of Works

Tell: SHIM (14 min) for performer and spatialized electronics, 2016.
Premiered November 4, 2016, Brandeis University; Victoria Cheah, performer.

n. 961, 963 (6 min) for solo scordatura piano, 2016.
Commission from Marilyn Nonken. Premiered May 19, 2016, Tufts University; Marilyn Nonken, piano.

Your voice XXX, not HIM (17 min) for soprano, two silent actors, clarinet, saxophone, percussion, 2016.
Staged reading by Guerilla Opera (Aliana de la Guardia, Brian Church, Thea Lobo, Rane Moore, Mary Joy Patchett, Mike Williams) on April 16, 2016, Brandeis University.

TELL: Creta Kano (20 min) 8-channel sine tones for live performance, 2016.
Premiered February 27, 2016, Brandeis University.

TELL: dreamhouse (10 min) for six instruments, 2015.
Premiered August 19, 2015, Sommerakademie Schloss Solitude; Ensemble Surplus.

TELL: even among these rocks (11 min) for solo flute and 8-channel sine tones, 2015.
Premiered April 25, 2015, Brandeis University; Carlton Vickers, flute.

TELL : Abschied (15 min) for solo piano, 2015.
Premiered March 8, 2015, Brandeis University; Geoffrey Burlison, piano.

Telephone: (careless whisper) (12 min) for bass clarinet and marimba, 2013 / revised 2016.
Commission from Transient Canvas, premiered March 19, 2014 in Cambridge, MA,; Matt Sharrock, percussion and Amy Advocat, bass clarinet.

Studiolo installation presented at Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik Darmstadt 2014 in Peter Ablinger's Composition Beyond Music workshop, Orangerie, Darmstadt, Germany, August 2014. Cardboard house with spatialized electroacoustic music. Recycled cardboard, gaff tape, hot glue, flashlight, 12 speakers, 6 independent sound loops of differing lengths. Approx. L 5' x W 8' x H 4'

I count the fleeting hours (11 min) for large ensemble, 2014.
Premiered at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, May 2014 with Jeffrey Means, conductor.

BLOW-UP (16 min) for percussion trio, 2014.
Commission from Trio Okho, premiered March 2014 in Cambridge, MA,; Nick Tolle, Mike Williams, Jeffrey Means, percussion.

TE (13 min) for string trio, 2014.
Commission from Trio de Kooning, premiered January 14, 2014 in at USC; Clara Kim, violin, Hannah Shaw, viola, Jo Whang, cello.

Chantre: et l'unique cordeau des trompettes marines (5 min) for solo erhu, 2013.
Premiered November 2014, Brandeis University; Wang Guowei, erhu.

Mirror, mirror, site-specific work installed on the Great Lawn of Brandeis University, 2013. Made possible by a grant from the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts. Pair of acoustic mirrors and handmade musical instruments. Plexiglass, aluminum, steel, glass, wax, water. 2 (L 4' x W 4' x H 6') installed ~20' apart.

As long as you want (4 min), for soprano and clarinet, 2013.
Premiered by Tony Arnold and Michael Norsworthy at Brandeis University, May 2013.

Stroke, site-specific work installed outside of the Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, April 2012. Made possible by a grant from the Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts. 24-foot-long corridor featuring sculptural forms based on Ellsworth Kelly's *Blue White*, and 9 independent fixed media sound loops. Wood, paper, cotton, plastic, speakers, cd players, fixed media. L 24' x W 4' x H 8'

strangeloop (c. 9 min), for baritone saxophone, 2010.
Commissioned and premiered by Zach Herchen in Brooklyn, New York, 2012 and on tour.

grist (c. 8 min), for string quartet, 2009/2012.
Undergraduate honors thesis, Hunter College. Premiered May 6, 2012, Boston, MA.

Psalm (4 min), for orchestra, 2008.
Premiered by Hunter College Symphony Orchestra, December 2008 at Hunter College, NY, NY.

and yes i said yes (6 min), for saxophone quartet, 2007.
Co-commission from PRISM Saxophone Quartet and The Walden School.
Premiered September 2007 at Symphony Space in New York, NY.