

# Victoria Cheah

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## EDUCATION

- 2010-2020     **Brandeis University**  
 Ph.D. in music composition and theory, February 2020. Full university fellowship.  
 Composition studies with Yu-Hui Chang, David Rakowski, Eric Chasalow.
- 2006-2010     **Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College, City University of New York**  
 Full merit scholarship. Private studies: Shafer Mahoney, composition. Geoffrey Burlison,  
 piano. Norma Newton, voice. Majored in music, special honors. Concentrations in music  
 composition, English literature, minor in American history. B.A. magna cum laude, June 2010.  
 Macaulay Honors College Scholar, Thomas Hunter Honors Program, Dean's List.

## MUSIC FESTIVALS, ACADEMIES, CONFERENCES

- 2019     **Residency at Avaloch Farm Music Institute**  
 With Wavefield Ensemble to develop new work.
- 2018     **ICMC Presentation of Score Follower at ICMC / NYCCEMF in New York, NY.**  
**Internationale Ferienkurse für Neue Musik, Darmstadt**  
 Composing the Archive workshop with Kirsten Reese.  
**Forum Wallis** Presentation of Score Follower in Leuk, Switzerland.  
**Harvard Graduate Music Forum Ex-Centric Music Studies Conference**  
 Roundtable participation representing Score Follower.
- 2017     **Wet Ink Readings**  
 With conductor Eric Wubbels and Wet Ink (*I watched her smile her hand* for large ensemble).  
**VIPA Festival (Valencia International Performance Academy and Festival)**  
 With Stefano Gervasoni, José María Sánchez Verdú, Ensemble Interface.
- 2016     **Nes Artist Residency**  
 Joint artist residency in Skagaströnd, Iceland with collaborator Gleb Kanasevich.
- 2015     **Sommerakademie Schloss Solitude**  
 With Chaya Czernowin, Ming Tsao, Rebecca Saunders, and ensemble SurPlus.  
**Contemporary Encounters Meitar Ensemble**  
 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 (*Studiolo*, installation).  
**Residency at Avaloch Farm Institute**  
 With Trio de Kooning to develop new work (*TE*).
- 2011     **American Academy of Music at Fontainebleau**  
 With François Paris, Allain Gaussin, Richard Danielpour, Isabelle Duha.
- 2011     **Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice**  
 With Tristan Murail. Premiere of *AEAEA*, for ensemble.
- 2010     **Summer Institute for Contemporary Performance Practice**  
 With Chaya Czernowin. Premiere of *Elasticity*, for ensemble.
- 2009     **The European American Musical Alliance**
- 2009     **Composition Workshop at Conservatoire de Blanc-Mesnil**  
 With Philippe Leroux, John Rea, Aaron Einbond and Ensemble Cairn.
- 2005- 2006   **The Walden School**  
 With Aurora Nealand, Jim Altieri, Renee Favand and Shawn Crouch.

**COMMISSIONS, HONORS, AWARDS**

- 2019      **Commission from YARN / WIRE** (USA) for new work, June 2020.  
**Commission from andPlay** (USA) for 40-minute new work with playback, May 2021.  
**Commission from Amorsina Trio** (USA) for miniature, Fall 2020.  
**Commission from Kylwyrria Trio** (USA) for violin, horn, piano, Spring 2021.  
**Commission from Departure Duo** (DE/USA) for female voice and double bass, Fall 2021.  
**Commission from Wavefield Ensemble** (USA) for new work for sinfonietta and SATB, Nov. 2019.  
**Commission from Guerilla Opera** (USA) for opera scene, libretto & music, May 2020.  
**Commission from Ensemble Dal Niente wind trio** (USA) for new work, Spring 2019.  
**Forthcoming record release with Flag Day Recordings** (USA) titled ROMANCE.
- 2018      **Commission from Vertixe Sonora** (ES) for new ensemble work.  
**Commission from Heavy Air** (USA) for trombone, cello, and electronics.
- 2017      **Commission from Dinosaur Annex** (USA) for accordion and viola, with video by Pawel Wojtasik.
- 2016      **University Prize Instructorship**  
Awarded opportunity to develop elective “Risk and Experimentation in Music” at Brandeis.
- 2015      **Commission from Marilyn Nonken** (USA) for solo scordatura piano.  
**Commission from Stephen Marotto** (USA) 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**  
**Anna Walinska Prize (Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts)**  
**Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts Grant**  
**Commission from Transient Canvas** for bass clarinet and marimba.  
**Commission from Acoustic Uproar** for flute and clarinet.  
**Outstanding Teaching Fellow Award 2012-2013**  
TF for Orchestration (Fall 2012) and Undergraduate Composition (Spring 2013).
- 2012      **Leonard Bernstein Festival of the Creative Arts Grant**
- 2011      **Scholarship (partial) to American Academy of Music 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**

**TEACHING & RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE****June 2018 – present**Talea Ensemble  
*Production Manager*

Production manager for contemporary music ensemble based in New York, NY. Coordinates ensemble activities with venues and outside producers, contracts musicians, schedules rehearsals, production and stage manager.

**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.

**July 2018 - present**Boston Conservatory / Berklee College of Music  
*Boston Conservatory High School Composition Intensive Faculty*

Faculty member teaching music composition in small studio of 5 high school age composers. Private lessons and coaching during recording sessions and rehearsals.

- 2008 - present** *Freelance Stage & Production Manager*  
Stage and production manager in New York, NY and Boston area specializing in contemporary music productions.
- September 2011 – 2018** Brandeis University  
*Instructor, Teaching Assistant*  
Designed and taught elective course for University Prize Instructorship, Spring 2017. Instructor for required freshman academic writing seminar (2016-2018, Spring 2014) and aural skills class (2015-2018, 2013-2014, 2011-2012). Teaching assistant for Orchestration (Fall 2012), Undergraduate Composition (Spring 2013), and special course with Tony Arnold (Spring 2016).
- September 2015 – 2019** 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  
*Visiting 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.
- 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 for events at venues including 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**

Instructor. 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 and concepts.

### **University Writing Seminar: Minimalism – Art Stripped Bare**

Instructor. 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**

Instructor. 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**

Instructor. Focus on skills including sight singing, rhythm, dictation (melodic, harmonic, rhythmic), listening, conducting, and more. Developed section for blind students.

### **Research and Materials of Music**

Instructor. Graduate-level course focuses on writing and speaking about music, with an emphasis on research techniques and writing.

### **Graduate Music History Review**

Instructor. Review of Western classical music from antiquity to the present for graduate students.

### **Undergraduate Orchestration**

Course assistant. Led section in instrumentation and orchestration.

### **Undergraduate Composition**

Course assistant. Led section in music composition.

### **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. Led section in music theory and aural skills.

**Music 151: Tonal Analysis**

Teaching fellow. Led section in a collaborative research project.

**SELECTED SOLO PERFORMANCES**

2019 Flag Day Recordings 5-city east coast tour w/ Billy Pizarro and Gleb Kanasevich  
 2018 MATA Festival: A Room of One's Own Solo show presented by MATA at Qubit, NYC.

**SELECTED WORKS**

**ROMANCE** cassette tape / digital album release, 2019.

Forthcoming commercial release on Flag Day Recordings featuring "I took my lover to Chinatown and felt better about myself" and "We danced in the basement of solitude."

**You would be like diving into the ocean** (18 min) for sinfonietta and SATB, 2019.

Commission from Wavefield Ensemble. Premiere in November 2019, New York, NY.

**Etiquette** (15 min) opera scene, 2019.

Commission from Guerilla Opera for *Let's Make a Sandwich* production, spring 2020. Libretto and music.

**UNDERSEA** (9 min) for wind trio, 2018.

Commission from Ensemble Dal Niente wind trio. Premiere in March 2019, Chicago, IL.

**I hear her emails in my dreams about childhood** (15 min) for trombone and cello, 2018.

Commissioned by Heavy Air. Premiere in May 2018, Silo City, Buffalo, NY.

**We waited for each other on aim** (10 min) for 8 players, 2018.

Written for ensemble Dal Niente, premiere in February 2018, Brandeis University.

**We burned the care of our flies** (10 min) for accordion and viola, 2017.

Commissioned by Dinosaur Annex, Premiered January 18, 2017, Third Life Studios, Somerville, MA.

**We drank wine from the bottle on a rooftop next to god** (15 min) for string quartet and sine tones, 2017.

For the Lydian String Quartet. Premiered December 9, 2017, Brandeis University.

**Tell for Jared Redmond** (15 min) for performer and sine tones, 2014-2017.

Premiered November 11, 2017, Slosberg Recital Hall, Brandeis University.

**I watched her smile her hand** (15 min) for twelve instruments, 2017.

For Wet Ink Large Ensemble readings, New York, NY, 2017.

**"I watched the horizon of the sea, the world"** (32 min) for uncondacted septet, 2017.

Dissertation composition in partial fulfillment towards the doctorate in music composition at Brandeis University.

Premiered 7 May 2017, Slosberg Recital Hall, Brandeis University.

**The ocean inside your seashell** (6 min) for solo cello, 2017.

Commission from Ling Yuan-Keng, violoncello. Premiered 8 May 2017 at Brandeis University.

**I watched the tealights hide** (12 min) for quartet and electronic playback, 2017.

For Ensemble Interface at the VIPA festival 2017. Premiere 2 July 2017, Conservatorio superior de música Joaquín Rodrigo, Valencia, Spain.

**Tell: Quartet** (8 min) for saxophone quartet, 2016.  
Written for PRISM Quartet. Premiered January 29, 2017, Brandeis University.

**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. Withdrawn.

**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. Withdrawn.

**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.

**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, New York, 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.

## OTHER SKILLS

Conversational French and basic Cantonese & Mandarin Chinese. Some basic Spanish, German.  
Reading ability in French, German, Latin, Spanish.

Formal study of piano, voice, erhu, guzheng.

Software proficiency with Google apps, Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Sibelius, Finale, Logic.  
Some experience with ProTools, MaxMSP, Soundforge, Audiosculpt, OpenMusic, Tessitura.

Basic carpentry and welding skills. Strong hand and machine sewing skills.

Dedicated home cook. Bartender at Winnie's on East Broadway.