

GRADUATE RECITALS

by

HSIAO-FENG ALICE LIU

B.Mus., University of British Columbia, 2002

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF MUSIC

in

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

(Orchestral Instrument)

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

April 2006

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## ABSTRACT

The thesis for the Master of Music degree in Orchestral Instruments consists of two full-length recitals, or the equivalent, with emphasis on solo works, but also including representative chamber works.

My two full-length recitals were performed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 and April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

***MASTER'S GRADUATION RECITAL***

***Alice Liu, Clarinet***

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Recital Hall

Sunday, April 2, 2006

8:00 p.m.



**Featuring:**

Denise Ng

Emily Chen

James Wei

Kunal Moorjani

Michael Siu

## MASTER'S GRADUATION RECITAL\*

Alice Liu, Clarinet

Music Poem –Views of Four Seasons

Wang Jian-Min

- I. Dawn of the Spring
- II. Boating in the Summer
- III. Sunset of the Autumn
- IV. Hunting in the Winter

Denise Ng, *piano*

Duet Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon

Richard Strauss

(1864 – 1949)

Michael Siu, *bassoon*

Emily Chen, *piano*

– INTERMISSION –

Adagio in D flat

Richard Wagner

(1813 – 1883)

Emily Chen, *piano*

Trio for Clarinet, Violin and Piano

Aram Khachaturian

(1903 – 1978)

James Wei, *violin*

Kunal Moorjani, *piano*

\* In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree with a major in Clarinet.

\*\* Reception to follow

## The Music

**Jian-Min Wang** is currently professor of music composition in the Shanghai Conservatory, China. The four movement Music Poem is based on ancient Chinese poems which depict the beauty of each season. The *Dawn of Spring* begins with a piano passage that portrays the misty morning followed with bird calls by the clarinet. The melody gradually develops as it represents the awakening earth. *Boating in the Summer* is just that. That clarinet stays in the middle and lower register in the first part of the movement to portray the steady sway of the boat with the piano in half-chords as the waves. As the boater continues its way, the piano, symbolizing the waves, changes its tempo to accompany the movement of the boat. When church bells sound the boat slowly comes to a stop. The whole third movement – *Sunset of the Autumn* – contains mostly semitones and tritons which gives off the melancholy feel of autumn. The sound of horses galloping, depicted by the clarinet, sets the *Hunting in the Winter* in motion. Hunters chase their prey with constant horn calls among themselves. The clear articulation, changes in rhythm and the alternation between registers evoke the intensive atmosphere during the course of the hunt.

**Richard Strauss**, born in Munich in 1864, received a thorough musical training from his father, Franz Strauss. A composer from the age of six he received no formal training in composition but attended briefly at Munich University to study philosophy and art history. Inspired initially by Berlioz and Brahms his early works are more classical in nature before he moved in the direction of the more uninhibited romanticism of Liszt and Wagner. The *Duet Concertino for clarinet, bassoon, harp and strings* one of his last works, was written for the Swiss Italian Radio Ensemble and was completed in 1947. This composition is associated with Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale (Beauty and the Beast) in which the clarinet represents the princess and the bassoon the bear; when the two dance together the bear transforms into a prince. In the first movement the clarinet generally leads the way; in the middle movement, the bassoon leads above a whispering shimmering accompaniment; the third movement is set in Rondo form where Strauss uses a merry theme from his second wind sonatina. All three movements follow each other without break.

The *Adagio in D-flat* for clarinet and strings has recently been disassociated from **Richard Wager**. Recent musical scholarship attributes it to be the creation of Heirich Baermann, the famous European clarinet virtuoso and non-so-famous composer. The piece is characterized by a long romantic melody with a very fine sense of expressive line.

**Aram Khachaturian** (1903-1978), born in a Armenian family in Tiflis, was fascinated by the music he heard around him in his youth but did not begin his musical studies until age of nineteen. At first, he studied Cello with Mikhail Gnesin in Gneskin Institute in Moscow, but soon he turned to composition. His great interest in folk music, particularly the music of his native Armenia, plays a significant part in his musical style. In 1928, a year before entering the Moscow Conservatory to study composition with Nikolai Myaskovsky, Khachaturian wrote, "The goal of my music is to produce Armenian music, with its wealth of melodies and rhythms, through the prism of European methods of composing, of European musical art, and to make our music the property of all nations." Therefore the essence of his music is both lyric and rhythmic. The *Trio for clarinet, violin and piano*, dates from early in Khachaturian's career, in 1932, was the first of his works to be played outside the Soviet Union. The *Trio's* three instruments by turns combine and stratify in improvisatory wave of both Armenia music and dance rhythms. The first movement is a slow, melismatic meditation. The second movement begins as a scherzo, followed by a gentle folksong, leading into an energetic climax in the middle section. The third movement is an extended dance with several moods; displaying a pop or new age flavour.

### Ancient Chinese Poems

孟浩然 - 春曉

Meng Haoran - Spring Dawn

春眠不覺曉，  
處處聞啼鳥  
夜來風雨聲，  
花落知多少？

I slumbered this spring morning, and missed the dawn,  
From everywhere I heard the cry of birds.  
That night the sound of wind and rain had come,  
Who knows how many petals then had fallen?

王維 - 山居秋暝

Wang Wei - An Autumn Evening in the Mountains

空山新雨後，  
天氣晚來秋，  
明月松間照，  
清泉石上流；  
竹喧歸浣女，  
蓮動下漁舟，  
隨意春芳歇，  
王孫自可留。

After rain the empty mountain  
Stands autumnal in the evening,  
Moonlight in its groves of pine,  
Stones of crystal in its brooks.  
Bamboos whisper of washer-girls bound home,  
Lotus-leaves yield before a fisher-boat --  
And what does it matter that springtime has gone,  
While you are here, O Prince of Friends?

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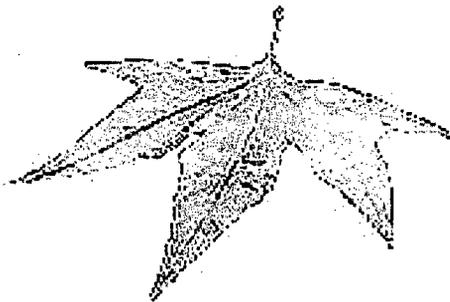
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**Alice Liu, clarinet**

**with**

**Denise Ng, piano**



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Recital Hall

Sunday, May 1, 2005

8:00 p.m.

Hommage à Manuel de Falla

Bela Kovacs

(1937-)

Prairie Dawn (1998)

Stephen Chatman

(1950-)

Sonata for Clarinet and Piano (1941-42)

Leonard Bernstein

I. Grazioso - Un poco piu mosso

(1918-1990)

II. Andantino - Vivace e leggiero

\*\*INTERMISSION\*\*

Sonatina for Clarinet and Piano

Bohuslav Martinů

I. Moderato

(1890-1959)

II. Andante

III. Poco allegro

New York Counterpoint (1985) (B.C. Premiere)

Steve Reich

(I)

(1936-)

(II)

(III)

*Clarinet:*

Kimberly Woodroff

Michelle Goddard

Aneeta Dastoor

Doug Arnold

Annie Chang

Anne Brennan

Brian Nelson

*Bass Clarinet & Clarinet:*

Yvette Bos

*Bass Clarinet:*

John Gosden

Karen Davidson

\* In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Music degree with a Major in Clarinet

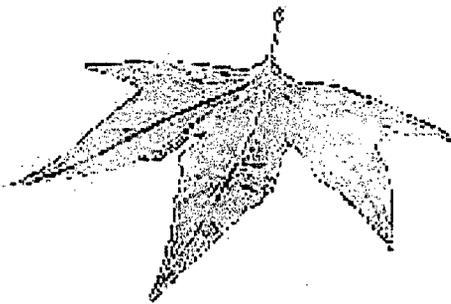
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