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Ho Wai-On

Music is Happiness Comments

More comments are available on my website.

- Andrew Breaks - Visitor Operations, British Museum
- Derek Foster - composer
- James Iliff - composer & professor of harmony at The Royal Accademy of Music (my composition professor)
- 2 from John Maver - composer & fellow patient
- Peter Renshaw - Gresham Professor of Music emeritus
- Professor R D Rubens - Guy's Hospital
- Malcolm Singer - composer, conductor, Director of Music emeritus Yehudi Menuhin School & professor at Guildhall School of Music & Drama
- Esther Wershof - pupil
- Kim Wilson - pupil & Montessori Pre-School proprietor
- Jonathan (librarian) & Olga Woolf (pupil)

And...



Olga and Clara
Coutler

Dear Ann-Kay,

Just a quick note to say how much I enjoyed your CD + book. Speaking from a musically un-educated view point, I was amazed at the subtle interweaving of musical influences + textures. I especially like the Four love songs in Chinese. As a strange footnote, I'm sure Glyn Williams was my first Tai-Chi teacher at the City Lit!

Anyway, money enclosed. I'll talk to some-one at the BM as soon as possible.

Anley

Derek Foster, B.Mus.

[REDACTED]

8 Oct. 2004

[REDACTED]

Ann-Kay Lin,
[REDACTED]

Dear Ann-Kay,

Sorry to have been so long writing.

Thanks for coming to the Forum concert. I seem to have taken on a lot - Tony and I did one in Brighton on Tues. with some new pieces, and I'm now 'coming up for air'.

Hope the following is of some use ... I have listened to Tai Chi several times now, and thought I would mention that too.

I'll phone you soon.

All the best,

Derek

Permutations is an interesting and enjoyable work. The different sections vary from simple to virtuosic, from a more traditional waltz with fast scale passages to contemporary textural ideas, and form a contrasting and satisfying whole.

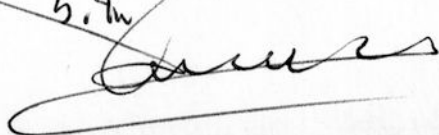
The set of notes that is permuted allows for consonant (tonal) and dissonant passages, and I found the permutations and modulations fascinating to listen to.

Many of the pieces on the CD have an Oriental flavour.

Tai Chi is more from the contemporary concert music tradition, but the combination of timbres in the flute and guitar writing can sometimes remind the listener of a Chinese sound-world. This too is an effective and individual piece, and beautifully played, as are all the tracks.

Wai-wai. I'm terribly sorry not have written for so long.
Yes, you & came safe, I'm so grateful. Most sincere
congratulations. Music most impressive, authoritative,
assured; & the sudden changes of texture & dynamic
very appealing & meaningful (to me, anyway). Also
you are fortunate in having had v. good performers.
But I cannot find the music happy. Am I missing
something, perhaps a great deal? To me it seems
strong, direct, personal, well-made, & as I said, authoritative,
but happy? — no, I cannot regard it in that
way. If you think I am approaching it the wrong
way, tell me how I should start again!

I had a concert here back in September
that was a great success & much enjoyed. Very
good audience too.

Much love from me. S. M.


John Mayer

Dear Ann-Kay Lin, Feb - 8.

Many thanks for your 'Music is Happiness', have been away for a while, so a pleasant surprise to hear from you again - yes music is certainly 'bliss' et al - I remember John Ogden famous British pianist 'virtuoso' saying he only feels 'content' when he lays his (super)hands on the keyboard - The Bechstein grand at St. Thomas still surviving somehow - Guys Hosp. have a new Yamaha grand Freddy Kempf gave a free recital Beethoven op 13 Pictures at Exhibit - Muzsksky Mind you, this piece requires a 9 foot C/grand - he Kempf has a super fine technique - color and annual-imagination - yet to

critic's always find faults, odd-
game, the 'music-business' - his
Schumann CD, Carnival, Toccata,
Arabesque, Humoresque, unique
in clarity, finesse - Yamaha
concert grand, smooth as silk -
(still in his 20's!)

Have included a list of
compositions, spending time
in 'fixing' parts then relearning
some of them - one needs
to be 'cloned' at least
10 times to carry-out-life!

So I will look forward
to your kind offer and
wishing you all the success
in this most worthwhile
venture - I admire the
attractive professional
presentation - etc.

Yours Sincerely
John Under

Perhaps you could contact Guys Hosp. Arts

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Dear Ann-Koy Lin 25/ Feb/5
Many thanks for your 'Music is Happiness'

a super recording, not the usual 'filtered'
to nothing sound (the Sakura Variations
on the disc. now) first rate sound, and
performance: very amazing opening
a rare thing + all else / the book a

mine of fascinating information -

Ivan Tcherpoun - Alexander Tcherpoun
visited Australia one time / seems to
be a longline of same via Harbin
to '02' Alexander Hurlwitzky pianist

to the 'Czar' son, Igor, famous
virtuoso, world wide - Sydney con.
Heard the Fr. Martin Ballade

the other week, Roderick Elms -
terrific playing (as from
all your C.D. artists.

Martin Roscoe, pianist has
over a 100 concertos in his
repertoire! - (more in prep.?)

This morning, D. B. Rach/Pag. piece
William Kapell. USA super virtuoso
died (31) on return Australia
tour (air crash) I heard him
a few times, fingers of steel -

'all the colours of the rainbow; one wonders - hang hang, remarkable in all respects - They (U.K.) find fault - as a matter of principle' why? obvious! —

There is a Morton Bay Fig tree: Botanical Gardens, Sydney - that is similar to your banyan tree



that will eventually submerge the entire city of Sydney et al in its relentless foliage (can't wait)

(6) Permutation: first rate piece to incisive - Vivian Choi (et al).

= without enumerating all - your production of the book + C.D. is a unique event, and all are to be congratulated for the joyous professional manner in this kaleidoscopic variety of artistry — (your highly distinctive voice - style)

Once again many thanks - keep well and best of luck et al -
John Maver



12. 8. 07

Dear Ann - Kay,

Thank you for the lovely CD and book. I have very much enjoyed listening to it. The music is lovely, the explanation and navigation, performance and recording - all are excellent.

I hope your eye is going on well after the operation. I have to return to St. Thomas for daily radio therapy to counter prostate cancer. The consultant was optimistic. I try to share, and believe in, his optimism.

Did I tell you of the music library? One day each week I help to repair a vast loan collection of music. The collection began in about 1902 with the Evening Institutes of the Gordon County Council, where the music was loaned out & returned. The collection then also served all Gordon schools under the LCC, later ECC, later ILEA. On the abolition of ILEA, it passed to

Westminster City Council and the Centre for Young Musicians.
Then Trinity College of Music first housed it then took
over the collection. It comprises some tons (? 20
or so) of music - printed music. Orchestral sets,
Open scores, Oratorio scores, Songs, Wind music,
Chamber music, Band music. I have been mending
the material over about 12 years and have completed
work on all except (the majority of) Songs and Band music.
An old friend, from college days, runs the library for
TCM and arranges loans and charges; he has created catalogues.

But TCM are now minded to take some
of the music (the Cave collection of ~~the~~ wind and band
music, plus the chamber music) into their library, and
close down the rest. I feel I have been wasting
my time I suppose there is still a chance
that TCM will reconsider . . .

If I were to win the lottery, I would establish
the library elsewhere and expand it to fill the gaps in
the collection (which arose because the LCC/CCE stopped or
reduced their purchasing from, perhaps, about 1960 onwards).

Keep composing,

With thanks and very best wishes,

Peter S.

Academic Oncology
Guy's Hospital

Professor R D Rubens
MD BSc FRCP

18th August 2003

Ann-Kay Lin

Dear Ann-Kay Lin

I was delighted to receive from David Tong last week a copy of *Music is Happiness* and the accompanying CD. So far, I have only dipped briefly into the text and listened to the first track, but I will soon read and listen to it all at leisure. However, I know from what I have seen and heard already that I will enjoy it immensely. Your story and musical creativity is impressive and I feel privileged to have a copy of this selection of your works.

Yours sincerely

R D Rubens

R D Rubens

16.VII.2003

Dear Wai-On,

- I'm not sure that I'll ever get used to the new/old name! It was great to see you on Sunday at my birthday binge, and very many thanks for your gift. I really enjoyed listening to your music and reading your fascinating account. It is all beautifully produced - the music is excellently performed and the booklet has such an elegant lay-out. - I found all the pieces fascinating - from the overtly oriental ones, with their folk melodies, to the western-

styled 'Permutation'. It will be interesting to see where your music goes from here!

I'm working at my Piano Trio for the Oct. 13th concert - I hope you can come to it. - let me know if you make house.

Very many thanks once again,

Much love,

Malcolm

Music is Happiness

To You

When the piano played it sounded exciting and told a story. The soprano created atmosphere. I really liked this tune.

Let's Sing "Magic Banyan Tree"

I really enjoyed listening to the children singing and there were lots of different instruments which made the piece a lot of fun to listen to. It was unpredictable and jolly.

Esther Wershof ~~8JK~~
Age 12

I was fortunate enough to be introduced to Miss Ho after taking the initial step, albeit rather late in life, to fulfil a childhood dream of learning to play the piano.

In spite of my musical limitations – I was raised on a musical diet consisting of David Bowie, T-Rex and (of course) The Beatles, and had never played so much as a recorder - Miss Ho agreed to accept me as a pupil.

Three years on and I struggle to play the simplest pieces; and I am still a long way from being able to “tinkle the ivories” (as my Dad would say)! Nonetheless, as a direct result of my lessons with Miss Ho, I am now able to *listen* to music with some degree of understanding; and my heart and mind have been opened to the emotion and wonderment that it can bring.

SAKURA

Sakura is the piece I listen to most often, and every time I listen I hear something new. It's like peeling an onion!

As it begins I hear the last of the petals falling. I hear Sakura's sadness at the loss of her beauty; her struggle as she toils relentlessly to regain splendour - drawing strength from her roots, as she recalls her finest hour over, and over, again with a determination to be magnificent once more. And then, finally, Sakura blossoms again.

Oh, what a sight as the ground, the air, the sky, and the universe are filled with Sakura petals!

I frequently listen to *Sakura* on my journey to work. If I am lucky enough to be stopped by a red traffic light I hear the whole piece before I arrive, and, spurred on by Sakura's determination, I am ready and able to tackle all that the day may bring. On the days that I am fortunate enough to encounter a traffic jam, I have the time to rewind and listen to the finale for a second or third time. On these days I feel that *anything* I wish to achieve is possible!

FOUR POEMS

Four Poems, being the piece that follows *Sakura*, begins to play on my car stereo as I make the journey to collect my son from school. This is not good because I know it will only end in tears (*mine!*); but I am compelled to listen.

In my opinion *Four Poems* is best appreciated if ever you have “loved and lost”. (“Better to have loved and lost, than never to have loved at all”, my Dad used to say - and he usually knew best!)

If you *have* ever “loved and lost”, listen with caution: *Four Poems* has the ability to ignite the fire, stir the pot, and bring the feelings of sorrow, desperation, tribulation, and isolation back to boiling-point. *Four Poems* touches the parts that popular love songs are unable to reach!

BANYAN TREE

To dry my tears - and avoid the prospect of my son being met by a grizzly mother (or, heaven forbid, a grisly mummy) - I skip - skip, skip, skip over the tracks until I reach *Banyan Tree*.

I avoid the urge to get political (Where was Scrumpy? What were the planning department thinking of? Don't they have a National Trust in China?) and simply enjoy the sweetness of the tale.

Kim Wilson
Montessori Pre-School Proprietor

Let's Sing *Magic Banyan Tree* is full of vibrant life and the *Sakura Variations* has such exciting sonorities, moods and glows with colour. *The Four Love Songs in Chinese* have great expressive depth and there's real wit throughout all these pieces, not least in *Permutation*.

Jonathan & Olga
Woolf

Jonathan
librarian of Winstead

Olga
pupil

Dear Ann Kay

Saturday 21st May

Thank you so much for
the CD and Book.

I especially like the Harbichold
and Gills combination in the 'Sakura
Variations' and the Love songs in the 'HINGSK'

You are very talented and
your story and background
works add a great deal
to enrich the enjoyment of your work.

My very best wishes for
the future and may you receive
the recognition you deserve.

Once again many thanks
and Best Wishes

John Giffin

Dear Anne-Kay,

many thanks for the interesting collection of your (for us) quite unusual compositions.

Thank you also for the little booklet that will certainly help us to acquire a better understanding of the music and culture it represents.

We wish you lots of happiness and success in the New Year

With kindest regards

Helga and Claus

Coutler