

Kia-Hui Tan studied piano, violin, music theory, composition and improvisation in her native country Singapore from a very early age, starting when her kindergarten teacher asked her parents how their child had quickly learnt so many tunes on the pianica - songs that her non-musician parents thought all children had learnt at school while her school teacher thought she had been taught by a musical parent or private instructor! She was promptly enrolled in private music lessons and the upright piano came to be the most expensive toy in the home but also remained her favorite thing to play with/on for many years - besides being a voracious sight-reader, Kia-Hui discovered that tinkering, even daydreaming, could be defended as a necessary step in composing and therefore be as legitimate as practicing!!

At age seven, Kia-Hui was selected for a special music course where, in addition to traditional private piano lessons, a comprehensive and rigorous music curriculum was being piloted on a dozen musically gifted children each year, the best of whom were also encouraged to take up a secondary instrument, hence Suzuki violin lessons. Instruction for this whole array of musical activities were provided by specially trained teachers as well as their teacher-trainers from Japan, Australia and the USA; repertoire studied ranged from Bach to Bartok to Dallapiccola, Ligeti, Takemitsu and Isang Yun; concert attendance ranged from world-famous soloists with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra to prepared-piano lecture-performances of Cage and Crumb to workshops on ragas and talas prior to a North Indian classical violinist's recital. These formative experiences have no doubt indelibly left their imprint on Kia-Hui's identity as a "musician" rather than a "violinist" that is evident in her intellectual curiosity - her affinity with new music does not preclude her incorporating performance practices of "early music" (which includes the 20th century in our 21st century) in her interpretations or exploring how the traditional musics of other cultures might be transcribed for the modern violin.

Kia-Hui received the LRSM diploma in Violin Performance at age 14, served as concertmaster of the National Youth Orchestra, and represented Singapore at various world youth orchestras in Australia, Malaysia and Japan. At 16, she was the First Prize winner of the Violin Open Section at the National Music Competition and shortly after was the recipient of the Shell Centenary Scholarship for the Arts that fully sponsored her four years of undergraduate study at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England. She subsequently attended The Cleveland Institute of Music where she received her MM and DMA degrees, including a doctoral minor in music theory. Tan graduated with valedictory honors at both conservatories where she had also performed as soloist and served in principal positions of various orchestras, including as concertmaster under Sir Colin Davis and Mstislav Rostropovitch among many other notable conductors. She has fond memories of summers at Pacific Music Festival (Japan), Aldeburgh and Prussia Cove (England), Encore, Meadowmount and Norfolk.

As concerto soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, Tan has performed in 27 US states and 20 countries on 5 continents, including at London's Barbican Hall and New York's

Carnegie Weill Recital Hall. Described in *The Strad* as a "violinist whose virtuosity was astonishing," she has won numerous awards including the Bronze Medal at the 1st NTDTV Chinese International Violin Competition in New York City in 2008.

Included in her repertoire of over 350 solo and chamber works are premiere performances of works by more than 50 composers. She has been a member of various new music ensembles and is frequently invited to perform at contemporary music festivals, often presenting themed lecture-recitals on the vastly unexplored repertory for unaccompanied solo violin, ranging from mid-20th century works by Grazyna Bacewicz, Paul Ben-Haim and Ross Lee Finney to newer masterpieces by living composers Peter Sculthorpe and Bright Sheng. In addition to her monumental performance project of the complete Bach 6 Solo Sonatas and Partitas, Paganini 24 Caprices and Ysaye 6 Sonatas over six recital programs, highlights this season include Ernst's Last Rose of Summer Variations, the complete solo violin works of Augusta Read Thomas, and chamber works of Joseph Schwantner. Tan also champions works by upcoming American and Asian composers (including Singaporeans Chan-Boon Tan and Chung-Shih Hoh) at conferences of the Society for Composers, Inc. (Houston, Santa Fe) and the College Music Society - international (Thailand, Croatia, Korea), national (Portland) and regional (Louisiana State University, Westmont College and University of California - Santa Barbara, Illinois State University, Ball State University, Rhodes College, University of Arkansas - Little Rock, SUNY - Fredonia, Harper College). Her debut CD "Lines in Poetry: Voices of American Living Composers" featuring solo violin works of Ronald Caltabiano, Elliott Carter, John Corigliano, Daniel Perttu and David Vayo is in the editing stage.

Currently Associate Professor of Violin at The Ohio State University School of Music, Dr. Tan is in demand as a master class presenter, adjudicator, strings coach and guest conductor in high schools, colleges and youth orchestras. Her outreach activities have extended as far as China and Colombia while her teaching at OSU has been recognized with the 2008-9 School of Music Distinguished Teaching Award. She continues to explore how Tai Chi, the Alexander Technique, and Nervous System Energy Work influence and enhance her violin playing and teaching. Lecture engagements in 2012 include "Embodiment in Violin Playing: Applying the Principles of Tai Chi in Violin Pedagogy" at the American String Teachers Association national conference in Atlanta in March and "Tai Chi for the Performing Musician" at The Performer's Voice Symposium in Singapore in October. She is an accredited instructor with the Taoist Tai Chi Society of the USA.