

VOICES OF THE VALLEY

PRESENTS

**20th Anniversary
Concert**

December 8, 2018

3:00 p.m.

De Anza College

Visual and Performing Arts Center

Cupertino, CA

Voices of the Valley *presents*
20th Anniversary Concert
Directed by Ms. Stephanie Chan



De Anza College Visual and Performing Arts Center
3:00 p.m. on December 8, 2018

Program

- House Rules** (*U.S. Premier*) Warren Lee 李偉安
- And I Saw a New Heaven** Edgar L. Bainton
- Goin' to the Holy City** Joseph M. Martin
Cheong Leung, *bass solo*
- Moonlight Over the Spring River** 春江花月夜 trad., *arr.* Jin Wei 金巍
Angela Lai, *soprano solo*
- Confiscating** 抄檢 Eric Liu 劉新誠
from *Dream of the Red Chamber* 紅樓夢
Andrew Chan, *violin*
Angela Lai, Cheong Leung, *percussions*
- Song of Ali Mountain** 阿里山之歌 trad., *arr.* Hwang Yau-Tai 黃友棣
Ladies' Chorus
- Gawolitai** 嘎哦麗泰 trad., *arr.* Du Min Xin 杜鳴心
- Alamuhan** 阿拉木汗 trad., *arr.* Xie Gong Cheng 謝功成
- Mulan Joins the Army** 木蘭從軍 *excerpts* Hwang Yau-Tai 黃友棣
Kathy Hsieh, 花木蘭 *Mulan*
Major Lai, 花明 *cousin of Mulan*
Jonathan Jiang, 花弧 *father of Mulan*
Tiffany Lai, *dancer* Lucas Lim, *kung fu kid*
Cheong Leung, Irene Ma, Terence Choy, Cammi Tam, Rex Lee, *villagers*
Angela Lai, *piano*

*** INTERMISSION ***

I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing

arr. Hawley Ades

Your Dream 你的夢

Lin Sheng Shih 林聲翕

If the World Has No Sound (*U.S. Premier*)

Warren Lee 李偉安

假如世界沒有聲音

Four Court Decisions

Arthur Frackenpohl

1. A Secretary
2. The Coffee Break
3. The Owner
4. A Woman

Miniature Viennese March

Fritz Kreisler

Poem of the Seashore 海濱音詩

Qin Yong-Cheng 秦咏誠

Tango Jalousie

Jacob Gade

Andrew Chan, *violin*
Xuexiao Zhang, *piano*

Sunset Boulevard *excerpts*

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Let's have lunch
This time next year

Angela Lai, *piano*

Stephanie Chan, *conductor*
Xuexiao Zhang, *piano*

Notes

House Rules won the Second Prize of the Gianni Bergamo Awards in 2013 in Switzerland. Its composer, Warren Lee 李偉安, is closely connected with VOV. He is the Music Director for St. Paul's Co-educational College, his alma mater, where he was a student of VOV's Music Director Stephanie Chan when she taught there. He debuted as a pianist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra on television when he was 6. He was a 2012 winner of the Ten Outstanding Young Persons Award in Hong Kong and was elected Associate of the Royal Academy of Music in 2016.

And I Saw a New Heaven is an anthem by British-Australian composer Edgar Leslie Bainton (1880-1956). The expansive melodies depict verses from the Book of Revelations where a new heaven and earth will relieve all deaths and sorrows.

Joseph Martin earned his Bachelor's degree at the Furman University and a Master's degree at the University of Texas in Austin. His many popular sacred and secular works are widely performed at worship services throughout the United States and Canada. **Goin' to the Holy City** starts with a soulful baritone solo in a traditional spiritual, "City Called Heaven," and transitions into a jazzy gospel chorus with a joyful declaration of hope.

Moonlight over the Spring River 春江花月夜 first appeared in print in the mid-19th century. The Chinese classic was originally written for the pipa 琵琶, and depicts a picturesque moonlit river. The vocalise chorus with piano arrangement starts with the sun setting against the tower bells followed by the moonrise. The faster section describes the rolling clouds against the river, followed by a refrain reflecting quieter scenery.

Dream of Red Chamber 紅樓夢, an English Cantata, accompanied by piano and violin, was written by Taiwanese composer Eric Liu 劉新誠 in 2008. Edwin Chen 陳煒智 created the libretto from an English translation of the novel by David Hawkes. The original novel by Cao Xueqin 曹雪芹 is set in 18th Century China. It is considered one of the four great classical novels in Chinese literature. In this English Cantata, the epic love story and the rise and fall of a Chinese aristocratic family is distilled into 6 musical chapters, rendering the drama by melding Chinese tonal elements into a western musical form. In Chapter 4, **Confiscating** 抄檢, presented here, death and misfortune befall the family. The percussive abacuses join the piano in dramatizing the stress and oppression that eventually leads to the family's destruction.

Song of Ali Mountain 阿里山之歌 is derived from 高山青, the only known composition by Zhang Che 張徹, a famous film director, as the theme song of a Chinese movie 阿里山風雲 in 1947, which depicts the Taiwanese aborigines.

The version we present today was arranged for female chorus by Hwang Yau-Tai 黃友棣.

Gawolitai 嘎哦麗泰 and **Alamuhan** 阿拉木汗 are two Chinese folksongs from muslim minorities, the Kazakhs and Uigurs, respectively. Gawolitai describes a time when young people from two nomadic tribes met and fell in love, but were unable to stay in touch after they parted ways. Alamuhan describes a perfect beauty who escapes to Turpan after being tiring of men pursuing her.

Mulan Joins the Army 木蘭從軍 is an operetta by Hwang Yau-Tai 黃友棣, first published in 1975, commissioned to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Hong Kong Music Conservatory. This piece sets the classic poem, Ballad of Mulan 木蘭辭, in which a 5th century woman warrior goes to war in her father's place disguised as a man. The third and last act of this opera, performed here, is written in form of a rondo. Villagers bidding farewell to Mulan, displaying the beauty of people caring for each other, depicts loving friendship and support. Hwang's music is decisively Chinese. Folk tunes are among his most used elements, as this rondo splendidly exemplifies.

I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing was first aired in 1971 as a commercial for Coca-Cola containing the lines "I'd like to buy the world a Coke," and "It's a real thing," Coca-Cola's marketing slogans at the time. The jingle became so popular that this version of the song — without the slogans — was a hit on virtually all major international billboards.

Your Dream 你的夢, is a chinese choral standard by Lin Sheng Shih 林聲翕 (1914-1991), with lyrics by 徐訏 (1908-1980). The song depicts a colorful dream, with alternating scenes of passion and desolation. The music and the words are perfectly matched with varying tempo and melody, where the use of voices and piano are choreographed to carry the tumultuous emotions of young love.

If the World has no Sound 假如世界沒有聲音 by Warren Lee is dedicated to choristers of his alma mater, St Paul's Co-educational College. It is a song about them: their choir lives, their prayers together, their tears of joy and sometimes frustration, and most important of all, their love and friendships. It is simply unimaginable for their world to be without their voices.

The suite of 4 songs in the **Four Court Decisions** are satire snippets about unusual court decisions, created from words found in the New York Times, Watertown Daily Times, and New York Daily Times. **A Secretary** started with the expression mark "con amore" (with love) about a secretary sacked for sending gossipy letters on love affairs around the office. **The Coffee Break**, marked "with cream, no sugar", talks about workers' compensation eligibility during break. **The Owner**, marked "mournfully", sings about a dead person's estate owing the government fines. Finally, **A Woman**, marked "in a bald manner", describes a decision finding a famous yoghurt company liable for a woman's hair loss. Arthur

Frackenpohl (1924-present) is an American composer and Professor Emeritus at the Crane School of Music at the State University of New York at Potsdam.

Miniature Viennese March is by Fritz Kreisler, the Austrian born violinist and composer who became an American citizen in 1943. His brilliant technique and unmistakably personal tone put him in the forefront of international violinists of his time. He composed string quartets and many charming pieces for the violin and made many arrangements for the instrument. The popular Miniature Viennese March is a typical example of his compositions.

Poem of the Seashore was composed in 1962, and describes a feeling to the sea. At the beginning, the piano plays as ripples flow into the soft wind. The violin joins in with a cantabile theme that is undulate and deep. The middle section becomes more intense, and it is followed by a cadenza. The music turns to be meditative with the piano, then the violin plays dreamlike theme to the end.

Tango Jalousie is by the Danish violinist and composer, Jacob Gade. He wrote a lot of orchestral popular music, but is remembered today mainly for the familiar “Jalousie”, which is often heard in concerts as an encore piece.

Sunset Boulevard is a musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber with lyrics by Don Black and Christopher Hampton. Based on the 1950 film of the same title, the plot revolves around Norma Desmond, a faded star of the silent screen era, living in the past in her decaying mansion on the fabled Los Angeles street. When young screenwriter Joe Gillis accidentally crosses her path, she sees in him an opportunity to make her comeback to the big screen. **Let's have lunch** captures a time when Joe is deep in debt looking for work, and when aspirations of stardoms meet cut throat reality of business Hollywood. **This Time Next Year** depicts the revolving doors of aspiring artists in Hollywood with an optimistic outlook.

About Voices of the Valley



Voices of the Valley (VOV) made its debut performance at the San Francisco Asian Art Museum in 1998. Under the music direction of Stephanie Chan, the regularly performing group delivers to the audience well-known choral favorites, and challenges them with rare and delightful works from baroque to contemporary with an international flair.

In addition to its own concerts, VOV is often invited to perform with local performing groups like the National Taiwan University Alumni Chorus North America and Bay Area Showcase Chorus, and to appear on Bay Area Radio/TV Stations. VOV performed Faure's Requiem with the Stanford University Orchestra under conductor Dr. Cai JinDong in 2008, and collaborated with the renowned XiaMen Philharmonic Orchestra at the San Francisco Davies Symphony Hall in 2009. In 2010, VOV went on its first international concert tour, by invitation from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to perform *Dreams of the Red Chamber* by Taiwanese composer Eric Liu. In 2017, VOV joined the Hong Kong Oratorio Society in a concert tour sponsored by the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, performing at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco and the Disney Hall in Los Angeles.

VOV's singers are passionate about choral music. VOV's repertoire includes a vast selection of works from different genres, cultures and musical periods, specializing in staged choral works and modern music. To name a few: Scarlatti's *Te Deum Laudamus*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Schubert's *Rosamunde*, Faure's *Requiem*, Johann Strauss II's *Die Fledermaus*, Gilbert and Sullivan's Operettas, Paul McCartney's *Liverpool Oratorio*, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*, Huang Zi's *Song of Eternal Lament*, Hwang Yau-Tai's *Mulan Joins the Army*, Hsu Tsang-Houei's *The Legend of the White Snake* and Chen Yi's Chinese Poems.

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Stephanie Chan, *Music Director*



Stephanie is the founding Music Director of Voices of the Valley. She is a dedicated music teacher and a seasoned choral director. Under her baton, the chorus has won generous patronage and accolades in the Bay Area and has attracted many talented musicians to join its roster. Stephanie earned her Bachelor of Music Degree, summa cum laude, from San Francisco State University. She studied voice with sopranos Nancy Zi, Jeanette Hill, and Kathryn Harvey, and conducting with Dr. Byron McGilvray.

During Stephanie's tenure as Music Director (1983-1993), the choir of St. Paul's Co-educational College was chosen as the Best School Choir in Hong Kong for ten consecutive years. It also won the Gold Award in the Third International Music Festival held in Australia. Stephanie also served as Music Director of the Learners Chorus (1993-1996), whose many concerts premiered contemporary compositions for Hong Kong composers, and was invited as a performing artist for the 1996 Hong Kong Arts Festival. Prior to her return to the Bay Area in 1996, Stephanie was a Lecturer in Voice at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Head of General Musicianship at the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts.

Stephanie has been in great demand as a speaker on choral conducting and as guest conductor for choruses including the Melody Chorus, the Hong Kong Children's Choir, the Hong Kong Music Institute, the Northcote College of Education, the Hong Kong International Institute of Music, and the Chinese YMCA Mission Choir. She served as an adjudicator for the 47th and 48th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival. Here in the Bay Area, Stephanie has worked closely with Builder of Christian Artists, and was one of the clinicians for CM2004 and CM2008. Stephanie premiered the *Dream of the Red Chamber* with VOV in Hong Kong, where she was also invited to conduct the 30th Anniversary Concert of the SPCC Alumni Choir in November 2010.

As a singer, Stephanie has given solo recitals and has performed in opera productions both in California and in S.E. Asia. She is particularly noted for her interpretation of Mozartian roles and German Lieder. She has a wide repertoire in the oratorios and sacred cantatas and is also a great favorite with operettas and musicals. An experienced music teacher in voice and piano, Stephanie is now teaching in Milpitas, California.

Andrew Chan, *violin*



Holder of the FTCL, LRSM and LTCL Diplomas in Violin Performance, Andrew Chan was formerly a First Violinist with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. A scholarship recipient in violin performance, he studied with Harrison Ryker, Ben Cruft and Harry Curby in Australia. Andrew has given several solo recitals in California and enjoys playing different genres of music. He has been busy teaching and performing in the Bay Area, and is a favorite solo performing artist with the Foothill Community Concert Series. Andrew is also the Music Director of SVAC Life Orchestra since 1999 - a very promising young people's orchestra, and had made 3 CD recordings.

Xuexiao Zhang, *piano*



Born into a musical family, Xuexiao started learning piano at 3. Her piano teachers include Feilan Li from China Central Philharmonic Orchestra, Hui Zhong from China Central Conservatory of Music, Tieying Wu from Capital Normal University, and Jinlan Song from China Central Conservatory of Music. After she graduated with a major in Piano from the music department of Capital Normal University, Xuexiao became the piano accompanist for China Central Broadcasting Station Chorus. She was also the A class teacher in Beijing Jiangjie Piano School.

Xuexiao played piano accompaniment for rehearsal of *A Cantata for the set-down Youth*, *Yellow River Cantata*, and Beethoven's *Symphony 9* for V-J Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration Gala. She was the piano accompanist for the Melody Chorus Reunion Concert in 2016. She is a member of Music Teachers' Association of California. She is currently the piano accompanist for Silicon Valley United Chorus, *Zhiyin* Chorus, Melody Chorus, and Voices of the Valley.

Angela Lai, *piano, soprano*



Angela holds the FTCL Diploma in Singing and ATCL Diploma in Piano. She was a first year student at St Paul's Co-educational College when Ms. Stephanie Chan started teaching there, and has been benefitting from her tutelage in voice, piano and general musicianship ever since. Angela also studied piano with Ms. Yu Jia Ying in Hong Kong and greatly enjoys accompanying her friends. She joined VOV as its first accompanist when the choir was founded.

Alice Cheung, *alto*

Alice's love of music started at an early age and she grew up singing in her high school choir. She also participated in inter-school music competitions, one of which she won second place singing a duet. She is grateful to come across VOV, through which she is able to share her passion of music with others. Alice has a beautiful family, including a handsome boy and a cute dog. She works as a California realtor in real estate redevelopment. She enjoys gourmet food, singing karaoke, traveling, and making new friends. This is Alice's first season with the choir.



Anissa Tse, *soprano*

Musical talent runs in Anissa's family - she and her two siblings have all been members of VOV at some point. Anissa's latest performance with the choir was in 2007, and we are very glad to have her back after a long hiatus. Anissa is a holder of ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in Piano.

Betty Lee, *alto*

Betty joined VOV as a founding member in 1998. She started singing in choirs since high school in Hong Kong. She studied voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan, and holds the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in Singing. She also likes playing the piano and the cello. Besides music, Betty enjoys biking, snowboarding, and traveling. Betty works at a local children's hospital.





Cammi Tam, soprano

Cammi started singing in choir since 4th grade. She has been studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan since 2004 and is a holder of the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in Voice. She was an active dancer during school years and participated in many dance festivals and competitions in Hong Kong. She is currently a realtor and loan officer.

Cheong Leung, bass

Cheong has been a long time member of VOV since 1999. He loves music and enjoys both singing and playing cello. Besides music, Cheong loves spending time with his family and playing with his two children. He works as an engineering director in the computer networking industry.



Christine Liu, soprano

Christine appreciates performing arts all her life. She started exploring her musical passion after graduating from college. While working in the accounting field, she is also a vocal student of Ms. Stephanie Chan. Christine enjoys singing with others and later becomes a member of VOV. She is a holder of Advance Certificate in Singing by the Trinity College of Music in London.

Deborah Yeung, soprano

Deborah has been singing with VOV since 2003 and is a holder of the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificates in Voice and Piano under the tutelage of Ms. Stephanie Chan. She loves Baroque music and is dreaming of owning her own harpsichord. Besides singing and piano, she enjoys traveling, wine tasting, gardening, and country music. Deborah counts beans and crunches numbers at a bay area startup.





Irene Ma, alto

Irene started choral singing at the age of 6 and has been singing with VOV since 2003. She is currently studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan and received a distinction in both Intermediate and Advance Certificate in Singing by the Trinity College of Music in London. She is both excited and intimidated to be performing on stage. Irene is an Accounting/Finance Consultant mainly servicing startup companies in the Bay Area. Apart from singing, Irene likes to knit, wine tasting, and spends time with her dog.

Ivy Chu, alto

Ivy has fallen in love with choral singing ever since she joined a choir in college. She has been singing with VOV and studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan since 2015. She holds the Trinity College London Intermediate Certificate in singing with distinction and the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in piano. Ivy participated in church choir for many years and was a part-time Yamaha music teacher for 6 years where she had great joy singing and playing music with kids. She enjoys hiking and playing badminton. She is a Business Analyst at an Electrical Engineering and Construction Company.



Jonathan Jiang, bass

While backpacking in Europe, Jonathan spent a few nights at the Vienna music conservatory and has since been inspired to pursue music ever since. Jonathan holds the the Trinity College London Advance Certificate for Singing, awarded with Distinction under the tutelage of Ms. Stephanie Chan. He is also a co-founder of ProfHire.com, a company which aims to provide a better way to find faculty for universities. When not developing fantastic web applications, he enjoys playing badminton, biking, jogging, and relaxing at various bubble tea shops in the city of San Francisco, and around the BayArea.

Kathy Hsieh, soprano

Kathy started singing in a children's choir in 5th grade. She was active in many pop-music competitions and performances after college. She has been studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan since 2006 and was awarded the ATCL by Trinity College London with distinction. She loves to sing and in musicals and operas with VOV and friends. Besides singing she is also a passionate artist and has been working in the computer/mobile-game industry for many years.





Kevin Ng, bass

Kevin has always loved singing and has been ever since high school, when he first joined the church choir at First Chinese Southern Baptist Church in San Francisco. While at FCSBC, he was quite active and directed the Chinese congregation choir for about two years. He currently also sings in the church choir at Silicon Valley Alliance Church, under the direction of Stephanie Chan. In his spare time, he enjoys listening to classical music, as well as contemporary jazz.

Major Lai, tenor

Major studied singing and choral conducting with David Kwok-Cheong Lui in Hong Kong before immigrating to the U.S. He has also been studying voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan since 2006. Major has received a Distinction in both ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate as well as Trinity College London Advanced Certificate in voice. Apart from music, Major also enjoys photography, swimming, and the arts.



Michelle Yau, alto

Michelle started singing at an early age and has never stopped. She was member of the Hong Kong Children's Choir, school choirs, Iowa State Singers, and now, VOV. She studied voice with Stephanie Chan, Jean Thomas, and Mary Linduska. A mother of two darling kids, Michelle treasures her time with family and friends. She is also a passionate photographer.

Rex Lee, baritone

Rex sang with his church choir when he was in high school and concert choir in college. Then he didn't--until decades later when VOV took him in.





Romney Wong, bass

Romney's interest in music was influenced by his parents, who listened to Cantonese operas, as well as Russian folk music and Italian operas translated into Chinese. He started choral singing in primary school and has been loving it since. He studies voice with Ms. Stephanie Chan and holds the ATCL in singing from Trinity College. Romney is a software architect at Orient Overseas Container Line Limited.

Stephanie Leung, soprano

Stephanie's passion and love for music drew her to VOV. This is Stephanie's first season with the choir.



Steve Wong, tenor

At the age of 4, Steve made his first "recording" over his mom's beloved Chinese opera tape. While it was certainly no blockbuster, it brought great joy and fond memory to his mom (and got away without punishment). Later in life, Steve was greatly inspired by teacher and friend, the late Dr. Richard Lin (凌忍揚教授), who led Steve on a journey to serve church choirs in various roles for over 15 years.

Theresa Chen, soprano

After attending VOV's 5th anniversary concert, Theresa was drawn by the performance and joined VoV in 2003. Prior to joining VOV, she sang with the San Jose Chinese Choir and church choirs for 10 years. She took choral conducting lessons from Dr. Angel Chan and voice lessons from Yvonne Wang. Theresa also volunteers in church activities and enjoys family life, traveling, pilates classes, and gardening.





Terence Choy, baritone

Terence holds the LTCL diploma with distinction in voice and the ABRSM Grade 8 Certificate in piano. He studies singing with Ms. Stephanie Chan, and is a passionate student of the German Lieder and English art songs. Terence is a founding member of VOV, and frequently directs and choreographs the choir's staged performance, drawing inspirations from the diverse live performances the SF bay area has to offer. Terence is a program manager at Flextronics.

Wailin Liao, alto

Wailin started singing with various choral groups in Hong Kong since secondary school. She was also an active member in the symphonic band and orchestra playing trumpet. She continued singing through and beyond university years, organizing various schools and public concerts. She has been with VoV since 2005 and has been enjoying every moment of making great music with great friends.



Wen-Ying Feng, soprano

Wen-Ying joined VOV in 2013. She plays piano, the bugle and two Chinese instruments liuqin and ruan. Wen-Ying also has great enthusiasm for animals. She loves spending time with family, traveling, and playing European board games in her spare time.

Acknowledgments



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A special thank you to the following for volunteering their time and effort to make this concert a reality:

Guest Performers	Andrew Chan, Tiffany Lai, Lucas Lim
Choreographer	Cammi Tam, Terence Choy
Costumes Manager	Irene Ma
Props Managers	Ivy Chu, Alice Cheung
	Betty Lee, Irene Ma, Wen-Ying Feng
Venue Coordinator	Betty Lee
Concert Program	Kevin Ng
Graphic Designer	Lorina Herbst
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Post-concert Event Coordinator	Anissa Tse
Audio/Video Recording	Trevor Stockinger
Usher	Alan Wong
Guest Reception	James Warren



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**Find out more about our choir and audition requirements,
at www.voicesofthevalley.org**