

ACL Country Report
HONG KONG REPORT 2012

The last 12 months (1st July 2011 - 30th June 2012) was another meaningful period for Hong Kong Composers' Guild. As a professional association, we continued our missions to promote music creativity in Hong Kong while serving fellow composers of different generations. We have completed various projects in 5 main areas: (1) international exchange, (2) public performance, (3) competition, (4) education, and (5) dissemination. A total of 20 works by Guild composers were presented in **International Rostrum of Composers 2011** and **ACL Conference and Festival 2011**. We featured a total of 58 Hong Kong compositions in three concert projects, namely **Musicarama 2011** Festival, **Hong Kong Voices**, and **SOUND-IMAGination: Hong Kong Snapshots**. We premiered 22 group-works and 2 individual works in **Schools Creative Music Showcase 2011/12**; showcased 34 young composers' pieces in **Inter-Tertiary Young Composers Platform, Young Musicians Performance Platform Series, New Generation 2012** (including 1 commissioned works); and presented 31 short pieces by secondary- and primary-school students in **LCSD SAAS - Discovering Our Creative Potential**. In total, we have facilitated the performance of 167 compositions of new music in Hong Kong and abroad, 137 of which were premieres written by people of very different ages (from 10s to 80s).

The details of the projects the Guild has organized/participated during this period are listed below. The amounts shown are in Hong Kong dollars (exchange rate: HK\$7.75 = US\$1).

LCSD School Arts Animateur Scheme 2010/11

The Audience Building Office of LCSD's Cultural Presentations Section organizes various schemes to promote performing arts in communities and schools. One of such schemes is called School Arts Animateur Scheme which recruits performing art companies to provide relatively in-depth trainings to youngsters in schools. Since 2008/09, the Guild has been chosen as one of the dozen performing groups to provide such training. Our project last year was called *Composition ad Libitum*. Ada Lai, Tang Man-ngai, Chris Hung, and Leung Chi-hin were the 4 composers-teachers who had provided composition training to students of the following 4 schools respectively: Canossa College, CCC Mong Wong Far Yok Memorial Primary School, Po Leung Kuk Chan Yat Primary School, and HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School. Each student was expected to complete at least one work individually. The final concert, which featured the best 28 works among the 80 students of the 4 schools, was held on 15th July 2011 in the Cultural Activities Hall of Tsuen Wan Town Hall, with performance by 4 professional musicians: Austin Yip (violin), Tong Wai-ho (cello), Cheng Wing-kin (oboe), and Cheung King-lun (bassoon). The MC was Leung Chi-hin, who skillfully introduced each young composer to the audience with short dialogues. The total LCSD funding to run this project was \$226,995. In addition, the Guild had topped up \$5,000, under our HKCG Mentorship Scheme, to provide 2 scholarships to the most outstanding students Yim Yu-chiu and Wu Yin-shuen. These scholarships had enabled the 2 young composers to have a total of 10 individual composition lessons with 2 HKCG mentors: Ada Lai and Lo Hau-man in 2011/12.

LCSD School Arts Animateur Scheme 2011/12

Being engaged by LCSD continuously, our SAAS composition training project of 2011/12 was called *Discovering Our Creative Potential*. After the enrolment deadline in June 2011, we visited and selected Sacred Heart Canossian School, WF Joseph Lee Primary School, Yuen Long Public Secondary School, and Rosaryhill School to join the scheme. During the student recruitment stage in September 2011, Leung Chi-hin gave introductory lectures to the 4 participating schools, addressing a large audience in each school. Then we sent Ada Lai, Leung Chi-hin, Chris Hung, and Tang Man-ngai as the 4 composers-teachers to these schools respectively to train their students for a year, with the aim to have each participating student writing his/her own composition for performance by professional musicians in school concerts and in a public concert held in Tsuen Wan Town Hall.

Musicarama 2011

The mission of this annual festival is to promote creativity, innovative ideas, advanced musical appreciation and virtuosic performance. Musicarama 2011 took place between 5th and 22nd November

2011. A total of 28 compositions were featured in 4 concerts. Besides international pieces, the festival had showcased the latest works by the following Hong Kong composers (including 12 premieres): Joseph Wong, Christopher Keyes, Chris Hung, Chan Ming-chi, Leung Chi-hin, Hui Cheung-wai, Aenon Loo, Ada Lai, Frog Chan, Jason Chen, Chan Sze-rok, Tang Man-ngai, Pang Chun-ting, Doming Lam and Galison Lau. The German Sound Artist/Composer Johannes S. Sistermanns was highlighted in the first concert which featured a number of his multimedia works. Two of them also featured another visiting German artist: Friedrich Gauwerky (cello). We were honoured to have the distinguished New Zealand ensemble Stroma performing in this festival. They performed a number of New Zealand and European masterpieces, and premiered 2 Hong Kong works. We continued our strategy to promote at least one specific instrumentation every year, with guitar and recorder being featured in 2011. We were grateful to the keen support of Hong Kong Guitar Orchestra and L'Art du Bois Recorder Ensemble who performed 2 European works and 6 Hong Kong works (including 3 premieres) in the same concert. Aenon Loo's *A is for Anonymous* was specially written for both ensembles. Nancy Loo and Hong Kong Wind Kamerata performed 7 works in the final concert, the programme of which also includes pieces by American composers Chen Yi and Alexis Alrich. The new pieces in this festival were skillfully written with idiomatic, effective results, and the performance standard of the overseas performers are remarkable. We had also invited people in the communities to attend the concerts, e.g., South-Asian residents, the 80 students participating in our SAAS project 2011/12, etc. We've received project grants of \$300,000 from CASH Music Fund and \$214,700 from ADC to run Musicarama 2011. LCSD sponsored the venue and its facilities. And as in previous years, we hired RhapsArts Management to administer the whole festival. The commission fees of the new compositions were sponsored by CASH Music Fund. Joshua Chan's report on this festival was published in CASHFLOW #67.

Courses on the Learning and Teaching of Composing and Arrangement for In-service Primary & Secondary School Music Teachers

In April 2011, the Education Bureau (EDB) called for service tenders to provide specific year-long composition courses for school music teachers. As a professional organization with many experienced composers-teachers, the Guild submitted a tender proposal in June 2011 and was successful subsequently. The EDB requirement was to provide courses to numerous teachers in different parts of the territories on 4 modules (composing skills, arrangement skills, learning and teaching, & assessment) within the curriculum framework of Primary 1 to Form 3. We hired RhapsArts Management Ltd. to help us with the administration, and recruited the following experts to carry out the teaching: Chan Hing-yan, Joshua Chan (Deputy Course Leader), Chan Wing-wah (Course Leader), Victor Chan, Jason Chen, Cheung Pui-shan, Hui Cheung-wai, Chris Hung, Ada Lai, Lai Sheung-ping, Leung Chi-cheung, Wendy Lee, Lo Hau-man, Clarence Mak, Ng Chun-hoi, Tang Lok-yin, Tang Man-ngai, Richard Tsang, Tse Kin-chuen and Ruth Yu. Ten young people were also hired as classroom assistants. A total of 132 primary and secondary school music teachers had enrolled in these courses which were held from October 2011 to May 2012 in St. Francis Xavier's School, Law Ting Pong Secondary School, Munsang College, SKH Tang Shui Kin Secondary School, HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School, Wah Yan College (Kowloon), and Wah Yan College (Hong Kong).

ACL Conference and Festival 2011

One of the major achievements during this period was the fact that we have a record-breaking number of 17 Hong Kong compositions performed during the 29th Asian Composers League Conference and Festival held on 26th November to 3rd December 2011 in Taiwan. Hong Kong had the biggest number of pieces featured in the Festival amongst all Asian-Pacific countries/regions besides the host Taiwan. Almost all featured Hong Kong composers had attended the festival which was held at various concert halls and institutions in Taipei and Taichung, and they shared a travel grant of \$50,000 from CASH Music Fund. On behalf of Hong Kong, Richard Tsang and Joshua Chan presented the ACL Country/Section Report during the Conference. Lam Lan-chee's report on the festival was published in CASHFLOW #67.

Young Musicians Performance Platform

With a special ADC grant of \$500,000, we have completed this 18-month project with 4 public concerts and 8 post-concert forums, featuring new and masterpieces performed by the Composers Guild Ensemble: Katie Chan (flute), Kwan Sheung-fung (oboe), Leung Chi-shing (clarinet), Leung Tak-wing

(bassoon), Pauline Tang (violin), Tang Hin-wah (violin), Lam To-shing (viola), Stephen Bin (cello), Wong Chiu-yu (double bass), and Christina Kwok (piano), under the directorship of Richard Tsang and Lo Hau-man who conducted a total of 47 rehearsals between April 2011 and March 2012. In collaboration with the tertiary institutions, the 4 concerts were respectively held on 30th September 2011 at HKBU, 8th November 2011 at CUHK, 24th February 2012 at HKIED, and 21st March 2012 at HKU. The Ensemble has performed a total of 18 pieces, with 7 of them performed twice (Fung Dic-lun's *'twas the Flowing Clouds*, Hung Ming-kin Christopher's *Lux*, Lam Lan-chee's *Falling Petals*, Lee Cheng's *Showcase Impromptu*, Leung Chi-hin's *Blank Shadow*, Daniel Lo's *Shadows* and Stephen Yip's *Reverberations 2*). These 7 pieces written by composers under the age of 40 were selected among the call-for-scores submissions of March 2011. The other pieces include works recommended by collaborating institutions, or works by established composers and masterpieces. Each concert was immediately followed by a post-concert forum in which the MC (Lo Hau-man, Victor Chan, Richard Tsang, Joshua Chan, respectively) discussed the music with the featured composers. The audience of each concert was also asked to vote for the best piece by a young composer. After collecting the data of all 4 concerts, the Council decided to give these Audience Choice Awards to the following young composers (each given a cash prize of \$2,000): Chan Kai-young, Vanessa Law & Leung Chi-hin. We also worked with EDB to organize 4 other post-concert forums held in their Education Services Centre at Kowloon Tong on 22nd November 2011, 16th December 2011, 23rd April 2012 and 11th May 2012. These forums were attended by school music teachers and students, having the featured composers introducing their pieces with scores and live recording. The forums were chaired by the same MCs of the 4 concerts.

Schools Creative Music Showcase 2011/12

This annual project began in the autumn of 2011 when the participating schools started working on their pieces and the adjudicators Daniel Chong, Gabriel Lam, Li Chi-man, Lo Ka-ming & Lo Hau man visited the schools to select the best pieces for the final performance which was held in the Auditorium of Sha Tin Town Hall on 20th January 2012. Some of these works were created with the sound-project guidelines written by Hong Kong composers, i.e., Daniel Chong's *A MTR Trip*, Hui Cheung-wai's *Shadow*, & Lo Hau-man's *The Feast of Sounds*. These multi-media works (with music, choreography, lighting, props, etc.) were all created and performed by the students themselves. Eleven primary schools and twelve secondary schools performed in two sessions (primary schools at 3 pm, secondary schools at 7:30 pm). The secondary-school session was further divided into competitions in two categories: Elite Group (for less than 15 performers) and Premier Group (for more than 15 performers). The jury panel of the primary-school session consisted of Joshua Chan, Hui Cheung-wai, Gabriel Lam, Ng Chun-hoi and Tai Kit-man, while the secondary-school session Joshua Chan, Lam Shun, Leung Chi-cheung, Lo Ka-ming and Tai Kit-man. Together with additional interviews made at the end of the concert, the recording of the evening session was accessible via the Government website (www.youth.gov.hk). EDB had spent \$150,488 on this project, while Guild also contributed \$77,336 (mostly come from CASH Music Fund). Under the HKCG Mentorship Scheme, the Guild also awarded a special scholarship of \$5,000 to Miss Kahleen Fung of St. Stephen's College, the best composer in this year's Showcase, to enable her to have 10 composition lessons with Cheung Pui-shan between March and December 2012. A new work called *Dreams of the Dragon* written by the scholarship awardee of the same scheme last year Mr. Luk Wai-chun was also premiered during this concert.

Inter-Tertiary Young Composers Platform

Funded by ADC (with a Multi-Project Grant of \$89,600) and Goethe-Institut Hongkong (GIHK), we organized this project in collaboration with Internationale Ensemble Modern Akademie (IEMA), Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln (HFMT), and 5 local institutions: CUHK, HKAPA, HKBU, HKIED and HKU. The basic outline was to invite a world-class ensemble - IEMA Ensemble, to spend one week in Hong Kong, giving instrumental lecture-demonstrations, working through 8 ensemble pieces by students of the local tertiary institutions, and presenting a public concert of 4 of the best pieces together with 4 pieces by the visiting German young composers. In October 2011, we announced the call for scores, and we sent IEMA the submitted scores by Christmas 2011. The German colleagues then selected and started rehearsing the following 8 pieces in January 2012: *Megalopolis* by Daniel Lo, *Blank Shadow* by Leung Chi-hin, *Le Cortège de Lumière* by Fung Dic-lun, *Frozen Second* by Lam Lai, *Faces* by Mike Yuen, *Nhemamusasa* by Wong Chun-wai, *The Nightmare Escape* by Chan Kai-young, and *Trace of the Solar Luminosity* by Chen Yeung-ping. The German delegation of 22 people (including 2

conductors, 2 instrumental teachers, 14 musicians, 4 young composers, 1 professor and 1 manager) arrived Hong Kong on 5th February 2012 and stayed at the guest houses at CUHK. A total of 3 composition public workshops were held at HKAPA and Lee Hysan Concert Hall, CUHK the following 2 days, spending on average 1.5 hours rehearsing and discussing each of these young composer pieces. Meanwhile, a public forum and 1 instrumental workshop were held in GIHK and HKIED, respectively. Right after the last composition workshop, the German experts and representatives of the local institutions selected the pieces by Daniel Lo, Fung Dic-lun, Wong Chun-wai and Yuen Wai-fung for the final performance which was held on 10th February 2012 at Lee Hysan Concert Hall. This public concert also featured 4 pieces by the visiting German young composers Birke Bertelmeier, Martin Grutter, Niklas Seidl & Stephen Quandel. The same concert was repeated in Frankfurt and Cologne few days later, immediately after the Ensemble has returned home. GIHK also funded a production of a documentary film called 'Stueckweise' on this meaningful project. The film was produced by Sebastian Seidel and premiered on 29th June 2012 in McAulay Studio, Hong Kong Arts Centre.

Hong Kong Voices - School Choirs Project

We have been working closely with schools in recently years, especially because of the implementation of the NSS Music Curriculum which requires all students to compose as well as perform and listen to music. For example, our involvement in LCSA SAAS has led to many opportunities for our composers to be hired by the schools to provide students tailor-made composition training. But our objectives are more than just that: we want to help making music education more effective and meaningful in schools. For example, we believe students will benefit a lot by performing music written by living composers who actually go to the schools to meet with them, to explain to them the music, and to comment on their performance. Therefore, we have started a 3-year project to encourage school students to perform Hong Kong composers' works. The 1st year project – a choral concert called “Hong Kong Voices” was successful held on 11th May 2012 at HKIED, which was also part of the Friday Lunchtime Concert Series of HKIED. We received the call-for-scores submissions in October 2011, and we had eventually engaged a total of 9 primary and secondary schools to work on the following Hong Kong choral works: Doming Lam's *Lullaby* (sang by St. Stephen's College Preparatory School), Gabriel Lam's *What is Man* (sang by St. Stephen's College Preparatory School), Hui Cheung-wai's *Wisdom Trains* (sang by G.T. Ellen Yeung College), Leung Chi-hin's *Dynamic* (sang by Yuen Long Lutheran Secondary School), Wong Kong-yu's *Mistletoe* (sang by Yuen Long Lutheran Secondary School), Gabriel Lam's *Lux Crucifixio* (sang by Carmel Pak U Secondary School), Doming Lam's 洗衣裳 (sang by HKTA Tang Hin Memorial Secondary School), Ng Wah-hei's *O know, sweet love, I always write of you* (sang by Ying Wa College & True Light Girls' College), Austin Yip's *Psalms 61* and Hui Kin-wang's *Love of the Fluttering Autumn Leaves* (sang by Wah Yan College Kowloon and Heep Yunn School). Thanks Lai Sheung-ping and the staff of HKIED, this concert was a great experience for all participating students as they can appreciate the performance of other schools in a non-competition situation, and to encounter the local composers and their music.

SOUND-IMAGINATION: Hong Kong Snapshots

Proposed by Ada Lai and Joyce Tang who form a Project Committee with Hui Cheung-wai and Tang Man-ngai, this brand-new initiative of the Guild aimed to combine sound and images in a concert featuring numerous short pieces by Hong Kong composers Chan Kai-young, Chan Ming-chi, Chen Yeung-ping, Cheng Chin-man, Cheng Yu-sum, Fung Dic-lun, Denise Mei-yan Hofmann, Hui Cheung-wai, Chris Hung, Gigi Lam, Lam Fung, Adrian Lam, Lam Lai, Lam Lan-chee, Galison Lau, Phoebus Lee, Leung Chi-hin, Tony Leung, Kitty Leung, Queenie Liu, Aenon Loo, Kelvin Ng, Ng Wah-hei, So Ka-wai, Brian Ting, Ricky Tse, Wong Kong-yu, Wong Wing-sang, Joseph Wong, Austin Yip, Alex Yiu and Viola Yuen. The unusual features of this project are (1) all pieces must be within 1 minute and written for 1 to 3 instruments - violin, cello, clarinet or/and piano, (2) all pieces are newly written without any commissioned fee, (3) a total of 32 pieces were performed in one concert without intermission, (4) each composer has to provide a photo that works with his/her music, (5) the concert was held in an unusual venue - Agnes b, Cinema of Hong Kong Arts Centre, and have the musicians and conductor performing in front of a large screen with the projected images (photos). Called “SOUND-IMAGINATION: Hong Kong Snapshots”, this well-received concert was successfully held on 16th May 2012 with a keen audience. Most people stayed after the concert to exchange their comments on this meaningful event.

Many people like the idea of combining music and still images, some find having short pieces in quick succession is a very effective way to appreciate contemporary music. The concert was performed by the Composers Guild Ensemble (Pauline Tang, violin; Eric Yip, cello; Leung Chi-shing, clarinet; & Christina Kwok, piano), conducted by Lo Hau-man. It was one of our projects funded by the ADC Two-Year Grant. Thanks those who contributed music and images to this concert, Anthony Cheng for audio recording, Patrick Wong for video recording, Joyce Tang for image control, Clarence Mak for additional text, Ada Lai for chairing the Project Committee.

International Rostrum of Composers 2012

The Council appointed Hui Cheung-wai as the Hong Kong Representative to attend the 58th International Rostrum of Composers held in Stockholm, Sweden from 22nd to 25th May 2012. As an international event for radio stations, this conference enabled recordings of new music from each participating country to be played and judged by fellow radio presenters. The Guild has been participating this annual event in collaboration with RTHK, i.e., instead of sending a RTHK staff to the conference, HKCG sends a composer. The Guild Council selected the recordings of *Fluorescence* by Hung Ming-kin Christopher, *Nhemamusasa* by Wong Chun-wai and *Faces* by Yuen Wai-fung as the Hong Kong representative pieces. Since the participating countries are allowed to get copies of other country's recordings, Hui Cheung-wai was able to select many interesting pieces for subsequent RTHK broadcast in 4 programmes chaired by Radio 4 programmer Raymond Chung. We are grateful to CASH Music Fund which provided Hui Cheung-wai a travel grant to attend this rostrum. The Guild has also topped up some additional funding to facilitate this expensive trip.

New Generation 2012

One way to help composers, especially young composers, to strive for their best is to organize competition. Our annual young composers competition New Generation concert was successfully held at Studio 1, RTHK on 7th June 2012. For more than a decade, we have been collaborating with RTHK Radio 4 to organize this event. Our Project Co-ordinator Lai Sheung-ping has been the key person in ensuring a fair competition and professional administration. The Council announced the instrumentation in January 2012 (every participant was required to write for the same quintet this year), and the scores must be submitted by 10th April 2012. Out of the 17 submissions, the Score Selection Panel picked the best 8 pieces for performance by Composers Guild Ensemble (Kwan Sheung-fung, oboe; Leung Tak-wing, bassoon; Tang Hin-wah, violin; Lam To-shing, viola; Wong Chiu-yu, double bass), conducted by Richard Tsang and Lo Hau-man, respectively. The judge panel, consisting of Chan Wing-wah, Pedro Faria Gomes and Richard Tsang, selected the following winning pieces: *Fata Morgana* by Chan Kai-young (1st Prize - \$6,000), *Flower Burial under a Pallid Moon* by Ting Chung-wai (2nd Prize - \$4,000), and *Discussion.(Somewhat) Meaningless Sound for Somewhat Profound Listeners* by Tam Ka-shu (3rd Prize - \$2,000). The concert also featured the commissioned work *A Breath of Life* by Wong Chun-wai, the winner of last year's New Generation. The recording of the concert was subsequently broadcast on RTHK4 on 23rd and 28th June 2012. This project was funded by CASH Music Fund, with a project grant of \$70,000.

Online Score Rental Project

One of our long-term objectives is to promote in Hong Kong the culture of paying for a score rental fee to use a composer's music, which has been a standard practice in the West for decades, but not common in this part of the World. With the ADC Two Year Grant, we are investing much resource and manpower to establish a new online system to enable users to download the PDF files of the scores and parts of Hong Kong composer's works after gaining a score-rental license which authorizes the use of the music for some specific performances within a given period. This is a huge project, as it requires expertise not just in music, but IT and legal matter. The most expensive items are on programming and IT infrastructure: we need to hire programmers to develop a database and design a new website with effective user interface; we need to hire people to input the data; we may need to buy and rent multiple computer servers located in different parts of the world, etc. We need to develop a payment system and a licensing team to safeguard our products. We also have to sort out the copyright issue with the composers and urge them to send us their music on PDF files. During the last 12 months, we have completed the first 3 stages of this project, namely (1) writing up of the specifications for website quotations, and (2) interviewing and selecting the contractor, and (3) constructing the trail-run website. The Council has

appointed Tsang Yiu-kwan (Chairman), Joshua Chan, Cheung Pui-shan and Joyce Tang as the members of the Project Committee, and has selected 2L Technologies Ltd as the website contractor. The next stage of this project is to collect and upload one work of each Guild composer to the new website. We have received a number of scores in the last few months, and we aim to launch the new website by the end of 2012.

CD Recording Project

Instead of just focusing our resources on showcasing Hong Kong new music in the context of live performance, we aim to enable more people to access Hong Kong new music in recording format. This is part of our larger plan of establishing a comprehensive database for Hong Kong music with effective documentation, dissemination and accessibility via text, score publication, media and online channels. Producing an audio recording is always very expensive because it requires a huge amount of time and effort for the musicians and sound engineers. We aim to split the cost evenly between the Guild and individual composers whose works are recorded. The project will be in multiple stages. Firstly, a price table with cost breakdown (e.g., cost on the basis of the instrumentation and duration of a piece) will be sent to composers. We aim to hire a group of up to 8 musicians, and suggest composers to submit scores written within the given instrumentation. Those who are interested to pay 50% of the cost for having their music recorded will submit a score for consideration. A jury panel will then select the best pieces. The Guild has completed this stage by June 2012. In the next stage, these pieces will be recorded and edited, and the audio files of the finalized recordings will be sent to the composers for personal retention and other usages and publications. Meanwhile, we have announced the production of a second HKCG CD which features existing recordings produced by Guild members themselves who would contribute 50% of the cost of the CD mastering. More CDs of different format will be produced and published in the following years.

Video Promotion

We also want to promote Guild members and our music through video. For example, we are producing some pilot short video clips (e.g., 1 minute) that feature our young composers, and aim to publish these clips on platform such as *YouTube* and *Facebook*. The featured young composers have contributed part of the cost of this production. Once this pilot production is successful, we will launch a larger scale project with the aim to feature almost all composers of the Guild. Besides this project, we have so far produced a few promotion clips for our SAAS projects with the LCSD funding.

Funding and Administration

Our incomes largely come from project grants and subventions (from ADC, CASH & LCSD), ticket sales and members' contribution (i.e., membership fees and levies). In July 2011, the Guild has succeeded in getting a Two-Year Grant from ADC the first time (HK\$600,000 per year); this is a further development after getting an ADC One-Year Grant of \$283,000 in 2010, and it allows us to continue renting an office in Hong Kong Arts Centre and hiring a full-time Executive Officer Miss Grace Yip. Our last Annual General Meeting was successfully held on 1st October 2011 in Chung's Cuisine, Tai Koo Plaza, and was attended by 35 people.