

CIOMPIQUARTET

presents

An American In Shanghai ~

一個美國人在上海

FORGOTTEN STORIES

COMPOSERS



ALAN
CHAN



ANDREW
WAGGONER

PERFORMERS



MIN XIAO-FEN
Pipa / Voice

Ciampi String Quartet



ERIC PRITCHARD
Violin



HSIAO-MEI KU
Violin



JONATHAN BAGG
Viola



CAROLINE STINSON
Cello

DURATION
90 minutes

◆ Ciompi String Quartet at Duke University in collaboration with Pipa virtuoso Min Xiao-Fen, is presenting a new program titled "An American In Shanghai" in 2024, with premieres by award-winning composers Alan Chan (Los Angeles, CA) and Andrew Waggoner (Raleigh, NC).

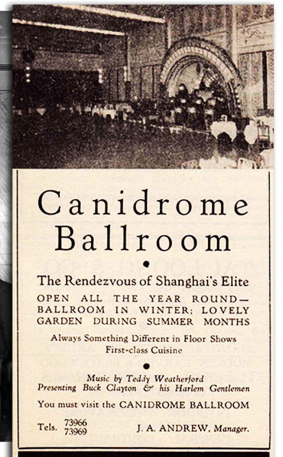
When cultures mix, music is usually where they find common ground. 1930s Shanghai put jazz trumpeter Buck Clayton in contact with Chinese songwriter Li Jin-Hui, resulting in music that blended American jazz and Chinese popular song.

Jewish musicians escaping Europe also found their way to this musical ferment, and they too left their mark. In this concert the Ciompi String Quartet and Pipa player Min Xiao-Fen evoke that time, mixing the sonic possibilities of these musical worlds with the help of composers Alan Chan and Andrew Waggoner.

Chan's work re-imagines 30s era songs through a jazz lens, while Waggoner create a dramatic dialogue between the Min's virtuoso Pipa and the string quartet. As distant culturally and geographically as they are from each other, these instruments are natural partners, creating a mesmerizing palette of string sounds in this one-of-a-kind concert.

Top: The Fledler family poses in front of their home on Tongshan Road. (United State Holocaust Museum)
Bottom: Buck Clayton's Harlem Gentlemen at the Canidrom Ballroom in Shanghai (1934)
(source: Syncopated times)

Back: Jewish business in Shanghai (LIFE Magazine)



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FORGOTTEN STORIES

– PROGRAM –

Alan Chan
Andrew Waggoner
Wolfgang Fraenkel

*Catch Me at the Canidrome! (2024) **
*Forgotten Stories (2024) **
Music for String Quartet (1949)

* Commissioned by Ciompi String Quartet of Duke University

DURATION

90 minutes

BIOGRAPHIES

ALAN CHAN

Born in Hong Kong, **Alan Chan** recently received the 2023 OPERA America's IDEA Grant, to develop his new opera *Immortal Labia*, in collaboration with New York City-based librettist Victoria Moy. He was the winner of the first ASCAP George Duke Commissioning Prize (2015) and ArtEZ Jazz Composition Contest (the Netherlands, 2011), and has also received awards and fellowships from Ucross Foundation, Konstnärnämnden (Sweden) and Percussive Arts Society, among others. His collaborators have included Brussels Jazz Orchestra, Millennium Jazz Orchestra (the Netherlands), Taipei Chinese Orchestra, Symphonic Jazz Orchestra and La Jolla Symphony. Alan has been creating unique music for his 17-piece Alan Chan Jazz Orchestra (ACJO) in the past decade. Their first "Shrimp Tale" album in 2014 garnered rave reviews internationally. Two experimental work-in-progress for Chinese instrument and jazz orchestra explore the possibility of merging jazz, improvisation and traditional Chinese music, which resulted in the *Moon Walk* and *Camel Walk* projects, featuring pipa virtuoso Min Xia-Fen and suona virtuoso Guo Yazhi, respectively.

alanchanjazzorchestra.com

ANDREW WAGGONER

Andrew Waggoner was born in 1960 in New Orleans. He grew up there and in Minneapolis and Atlanta, and studied at the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts, the Eastman School of Music and Cornell University. Called "the gifted practitioner of a complex but dramatic and vividly colored style" by the New Yorker, his music has been commissioned and performed by ensembles across the U.S. and Europe, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Academy of St. Martins in the Fields, Ensemble Accroche Note, and the Lark, JACK and Lydian Quartets. He is the recipient of awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Fromm Foundation. He is Co- Artistic Director, with his wife, cellist Caroline Stinson, of the Weekend of Chamber Music, and teaches composition and improvisation at Duke University. His music is available through Subito Music, and at andrewwaggoner.com.

andrewwaggoner.com

MIN XIAO-FEN

Pipa soloist, vocalist, and composer Min Xiao-Fen, classically trained in her native China, served as a principal pipa soloist in the Nanjing Traditional Music Orchestra. After she moved to America, forging a new path for her instrument alongside many leading lights in modern jazz, free improvisation, and contemporary classical music. NPR Weekend Edition lauded Ms. Min as "one of the world's greatest virtuosos," and The New York Times raved that her singular work "has traversed a sweeping musical odyssey." Min recently received a prestigious commission from the Smithsonian Institution to compose soundtracks for two Chinese historical silent films: "Romance of the Fruit Peddler" and "Romance of the Western Chamber" from the 1920s, and premiered on May 6, 2023. Other notable works include the 2021 album "White Lotus," her original score for the 1934 silent film "The Goddess," and the deeply personal 2017 release "Mao, Monk, and Me," which explores the music of Thelonious Monk. www.minbluepipa.com.

minbluepipa.com



ABOUT CIOMPI QUARTET

Since its founding in 1965 by the renowned Italian violinist Giorgio Ciompi, the Ciompi Quartet of Duke University has delighted audiences and impressed critics around the world. All its current members are professors at Duke, where they teach instrumental lessons, coordinate and coach chamber music, and perform across campus in concert halls, libraries, dormitories and classrooms. In a career that spans five continents and includes many hundreds of concerts, the Ciompi Quartet has developed a reputation for performances of real intelligence and musical sophistication, with a warm, unified sound that allows each player's individual voice to emerge.

In 2018-19 Caroline Stinson joins the Quartet, replacing Fred Raimi as cellist. Her refined musical voice, brilliant instrumental technique and distinguished history as a solo and ensemble player augur an exciting new chapter in the distinguished history of the Ciompi Quartet.

In recent years, the Ciompi Quartet has performed from Washington State to California, Texas, New York, Washington DC and New England, and abroad from China to France, Italy, Germany, Prague, Serbia and Albania. In the summer the Quartet has performed at the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival in Detroit, North Carolina's Eastern Music Festival and Highlands Chamber Music Festival, and at Monadnock Music in New Hampshire.

Collaborations have included the distinguished talents of pianists Bella Davidovich, Menahem Pressler and James Tocco, the Borromeo Quartet, saxophonist Branford Marsalis, soprano Tony Arnold, and jazz vocalist Nnenna Freelon, among many others. The Quartet's commitment to creative programming often mixes the old and the brand new in exciting ways. Its extensive catalog of commissions includes many that the group continues to perform on tour. Close ties to composers such as Paul Schoenfield, Stephen Jaffe, Scott Lindroth, and Melinda Wagner have produced important contributions to the repertoire; the quartet recently premiered Stephen Jaffe's Third String Quartet and Lindroth's Cello Quintet, written for the Ciompi and cellist Ashley Bathgate.

The group's most recent recordings are on Toccata Classics (a string quartet by 19th century violin virtuoso Heinrich Ernst), and Naxos, which released "Journey to the West" by Chiayu Hsu in 2015; also on Naxos online is a recording of the quartets of Paul Schoenfield including the popular "Tales from Chelm." Numerous other discs are on the CRI, Arabesque, Albany, Gasparo, and Sheffield Lab labels, with music from Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven, up through the present.




CIOMPIQUARTET

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