

JEN SHYU



Rome Prize Fellow · Guggenheim Fellow / USA Fellow / Doris Duke Artist
Composer/Vocalist/Multi-instrumentalist/Dancer/Producer/
Co-founder of Mutual Mentorship for Musicians · Chiuyen Music

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Fellowships, Awards, Grants, Honors, Performance, Education

2025 Rome Prize Fellow. One of 2 Rome Prize Fellows in Music Composition. Sept. 2024-July 2025.

2024 SFJAZZ Residency of Kenny Barron. Invited by Kenny Barron to perform on a night of free improvisation with Kenny, John Patitucci, Kalia Vandever, and Lesley Mok. Feb. 4, 2024.

2023 Vision Festival: Performed vocals & Japanese biwa, Reggie Workman's Celebration Band. June 2023.

2023 Stone Residency at The New School. Improvising and performing with Kenny Barron, Reggie Workman, Ben Monder, Sumi Tonooka, Val Jeanty, Lesley Mok, Kalia Vandever. Also performed Feb. 8 with Immanuel Wilkins, Bill Frisell, and Susie Ibarra. Feb. 2023.

2023 World Premiere of 2021-2022 DORIS DUKE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION "CREATIVE INFLECTIONS." Co-commissioned by Asia Society with Sumi Tonooka as my co-composer, with Terri Lyne Carrington (drums) & Linda May Han Oh (bass), for creating *In the Green Room: Layering Legacies of Asian and Black American Women in Jazz*, supported by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Creative Inflections Program.

2022 Kennedy Center REACH "Office Hours" Residency. March 7-11, 2022, curated by Marc Bamuthi Joseph.

2022 Davenport Resident for New American Music, SUNY New Paltz. Lectures and performance of *Zero Grasses: Ritual for the Losses*. Spring 2022.

2021-2022 SHIFTING FOUNDATION GRANT. Received commissioning grant to help fund creation of theatrical orchestral/choir work for *Fertile Land, Fertile Body* (work-in-progress).

2019 GUGGENHEIM FELLOW. Recipient in Music Composition.

2019 UNITED STATES ARTISTS FELLOW. Recipient in Music category.

2019 NYSICA/NYFA ARTIST FELLOWSHIP. Recipient in Music/Sound.

STEINWAY ARTIST, STEINWAY & SONS. Became Steinway Artist in 2019.

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2018-2019 U.S. - JAPAN CREATIVE ARTISTS FELLOW. JUSFC + NEA (JAPAN-UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION + NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS). Won 1 of only 5 annual fellowships (and was the only musician) for research on biwa, noh, Japanese language, shamisen, etc. for 5 months, towards creating *ZERO GRASSES* (solo version premiered 10/30/19 at National Sawdust, commissioned by John Zorn), Feb. – April 2019 (3 months pending due to father's passing).

JEN SHYU + JADE TONGUE band; Solo (*INNER CHAPTERS (2011)*, *SOLO RITES: SEVEN BREATHS (2014)* DIRECTED BY GARIN NUGROHO; *NINE DOORS (2017)* & *ZERO GRASSES (2019)* BOTH DIRECTED BY ALEXANDRU MIHAIL). Shyu's solo opera *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths* dir. by Indonesian filmmaker/director Garin Nugroho@Roulette Intermedium, Brooklyn, NY, May 28, 2014. Has been performed nationally and internationally. As Producer/Bandleader/Composer/Solo Performer/Educator: performing and teaching internationally on vocals, dance, piano, er hu, gayageum, Taiwanese moon lute, biwa, violin. Performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Ojai Music Festival, Guelph Jazz Festival, Rubin Museum of Art, Blue Note NYC, Brooklyn Academy of the Arts, Merkin Hall, Ringling International Arts Festival at Ringling Museum, World Music Institute, Roulette Intermedium (Brooklyn), Carolina Performing Arts, Bimhuis (Amsterdam), National Gugak Center in Korea and National Theater of Korea, Japan (Tokyo Performing Arts Meeting), Australia (AsiaTOPA, Wangaratta Festival, Sydney Internat'l Women's Jazz Festival, Sydney Improvised Music Association), 17TH Annual Cal State Univ. Fullerton New Music Festival; East Timor, Taiwan, Korea, Indonesia, China, Cuba, Brazil, & all Europe. 2006 – now. As sideperson, she has worked with Nicole Mitchell, Anthony Braxton, Wadada Leo Smith, Mark Dresser, Steve Coleman, Vijay Iyer, Bobby Previte, Chris Potter, and many other prominent jazz musicians.

2019 CIVITELLA RANIERI, 2018-2019 HERMITAGE ARTIST RETREAT, 2014-2017 MONTALVO ARTS CENTER awarded Shyu these recent composition residencies/fellowships, which were by nomination only.

2017 DOWNBEAT CRITICS POLL. Ranked #1 Rising Star Female Vocalist category.

2017 NEW YORK TIMES BEST ALBUMS, #3 vocal album of NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll for latest album *Song of Silver Geese* (Pi 2017), and 2018 NY Times "5 Standout Shows" for *Nine Doors* 2018; 2017 NY Times "Best Live Jazz Performances" (duo with 2017 MacArthur Fellow Tyshawn Sorey)

2017 WORLD MUSIC INSTITUTE & NATIONAL SAWDUST, in partnership with ASIA SOCIETY, co-presented *Nine Doors*, Shyu's critically acclaimed solo work, 6/29/17.

2017 TEDxDILI SPEAKER/PERFORMER. Featured speaker-performer for TEDx Talk in Timor-Leste.

2016 DORIS DUKE ARTIST AWARD. Recipient in the Jazz category along with Dave Douglas, Wayne Horvitz, Fred Hirsch, Jason Moran, Matana Roberts, Wadada Leo Smith, Henry Threadgill and 13 others in dance and theater, including Mark Morris, Taylor Mac, and Dianne McIntyre.

2014 DORIS DUKE IMPACT AWARD. Recipient, inaugural class of Doris Duke Impact Awardees in Jazz.

2016 MAP FUND. 2016 Grantee for creating *Nine Doors* in 8 languages and pre-planning for 50-state SOWN/SEWN (Songs of Our World Now/Songs Everyone Writes Now) tour.

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2016 CARNEGIE HALL MUSICAL EXPLORERS ARTIST. Performed her music solo in May 2016 in Zankel Hall.

2016 DORIS DUKE'S SHANGRI LA, Center for Islamic Arts and Cultures 2-week residency + performances and teaching at University of Hawaii at Manoa and East-West Center, January – February 2016.

2015 NEW YORK TIMES BEST ALBUMS #3 and THE NATION #7 for *Sounds & Cries of the World* (Pi 2015) released @Rubin Museum of Art, NYC; #3 vocal album of **2015 NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll, *New York City Jazz Record*.**

PI RECORDINGS RECORD LABEL. Released *Synastry* (Pi 2011) with bassist Mark Dresser, as Pi Recordings' first female leader/co-leader and first vocalist leader/co-leader on the label. Also released *Sounds & Cries of the World* (Pi 2015), *Song of Silver Geese* (Pi 2017), and *Zero Grasses: Ritual for the Losses* (Pi 2021). All albums now available on Autumn Geese Records.

2015 20th NAT'L INTANGIBLE HERITAGE CTR. PANSORI COMPETITION. Grand Prize (Foreigner), Korea.

2015 NEW MUSIC USA PROJECTS. New work *Song of Silver Geese* is awarded a project grant.

2015 CHAMBER MUSIC AMERICA: NEW JAZZ WORKS COMMISSION GRANT for Jade Tongue (with Satoshi Haga & Mivos Quartet) for *Song of Silver Geese*.

2015 KOREAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS/KOREA FDN. 6-mo. Language Fellowship. Mar.-Aug. 2015.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (11 spoken languages). Fluent in English, Indonesian, highly proficient in Malay, spoken Mandarin Chinese, Spanish, Korean, conversational in Tetum Prasa, Tetum Fehan, Japanese, Portuguese, high Javanese (Krama), with sung languages including French, German, Italian, Latin, Taiwanese, dialects of indigenous Taiwanese languages.

Other projects/Commissions

2023 *Letters to Jackie* commissioned by tenor, Ryan Townsend Strand. Commissioned to compose solo vocal and piano works based on letters written to Jackie Onassis after John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s assassination.

2020 - present: MUTUAL MENTORSHIP FOR MUSICIANS (M³). Co-founded with Sara Serpa in the spring of 2020 to empower and elevate musicians of historically underrepresented gender identities in the US and worldwide (including musicians otherwise underrepresented on the basis of race, sexuality, immigration status or ability across generations) through a new model of mentorship and an ongoing performance series of new collaborative commissions. With the aim of building new paradigms of mentorship, M³ celebrates a wide network of artists, providing a think tank for new ways to connect, collaborate, support and create. Have commissioned 84 composer-performer women and non-binary artists. Launched June 2020 - present.

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2022 PAUL SIMON MUSIC FELLOW GUEST ARTIST. Teaching middle school and high schoolers about traditional musics of Asia in 3 workshops at East-West School of International Studies, Flushing, NY. Spring 2022.

2022 SEATTLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA + OCTAVE 9 COMMISSIONED BY HOCKET. Commissioned to compose new work *Requiem for Her Voice* for HOCKET (Sarah Gibson & Thomas Kotcheff) for one-piano, four hands and optional auxiliary instruments two toy pianos, two melodicas, and small percussion to premiere Feb. 25, 2022.

2021 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHAPEL HILL CAROLINA PERFORMING ARTS “AUDIENCE ADVOCATES.” Facilitator talking about *Zero Grasses: Ritual for the Losses* and working with dramaturgs while engaging with local audience members in the creative process.

2021 CARNEGIE HALL’S SUMMER MUSIC EDUCATOR’S WORKSHOP (SMEW). Faculty member of Summer 2021 along with Martha Redbone, Starr Busby, Julia Gutiérrez-Rivera, Falu Shah, Layth Sidiq, Soul Science Lab, Hip Hop, Tanyaradzwa Tawengwa.

2021 BOSTON OPERA COLLABORATIVE’S “LOVE IN THE TIME OF…” PROJECT. Composed two vocal and piano art songs to texts by Mariona Lloreta and Danielle Legros Georges for Tahanee Aluwihare to sing.

2021 HOCKET ENSEMBLE’S #What2020SoundsLike Project. Thomas Kotcheff and Sarah Gibson commissioned Shyu who composed *March for Jacob Blake* for 4-hands piano.

2020 COVID-19 “ALONE TOGETHER” COMMISSION FROM JENNIFER KOH. Violinist Jennifer Koh’s nonprofit ARCO Collaborative commissioned Shyu, who composed “*The River in My Mind*.” Recorded for Cedille Records.

2020 AMERICAN COMPOSERS FORUM’S #CHORALQUEST. Composed *Living’s a Gift* set to the text of Mimi Broderick’s 6th, 7th, and 8th grade choir students at William Alexander Middle School MS51, Brooklyn, NY, commissioned by ACF, to be premiered after COVID-19 allows for schools to be fully open.

2018 WE HAVE VOICE CODE OF CONDUCT. Helped publish the Code of Conduct for the Performing Arts as a founding member of the WE HAVE VOICE COLLECTIVE, adopted by 60+ arts institutions globally. Released May 1, 2018.

Discography Highlights

MILES OKAZAKI, *Miniature America* (Cygnus Records 2024)

CAROLINE DAVIS, *Portals, Volume 2: Returning* (Intakt Records, 2024)

JEN SHYU with JADE TONGUE, “Phone of the Wind” (Launched Shyu's own record label, Autumn Geese Records, December 2022, now home to all releases).

JEN SHYU with JADE TONGUE, *Zero Grasses: Ritual for the Losses* (Pi Recordings April 23, 2021)

JEN SHYU with JADE TONGUE & MIVOS QUARTET, *Song of Silver Geese* (Pi Recordings 2017)

JEN SHYU & JADE TONGUE, *Sounds & Cries of the World* (Pi Recordings 2015)

BOBBY PREVITE, *Rhapsody* (Rarennoise 2018)

DAVID BINNEY, *The Time Verses* (Criss Cross Jazz 2017)

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STEVE COLEMAN & FIVE ELEMENTS, sang on 6 albums: *Lucidarium* (Label Bleu 2005), *Weaving Symbolics* (Label Bleu 2006), *Harvesting Semblances and Affinities* (Pi Recordings 2009), *The Mancy of Sound* (Pi Recordings 2011), *Synovial Joints* (Pi Recordings 2015), *Morphogenesis* (Pi Recordings 2017)

ANTHONY BRAXTON, *Trillium E* (Firehouse 12 Records, 2011) and *Trillium J* (Tri-centric Foundation 2015)

DAN WEISS, *Sixteen* (Pi Recordings 2016)

JOHN HÉBERT, *Rambling Confessions* (Sunnyside Records 2015)

JEN SHYU DVD, *Solo Rites: Seven Breaths DVD*, from May 28, 2014 Roulette premiere (pending)

LINDA OH, *Initial Here* (Greenleaf Music 2012)

JEN SHYU & MARK DRESSER, *Synastry* (Pi Recordings 2011)

JEN SHYU SOLO, *Inner Chapters* & **JEN SHYU**, *Raging Waters, Red Sands* (Chiuyen Music 2010)

JEN SHYU & JADE TONGUE, *Jade Tongue* (Chiuyen Music 2009), based on Taiwanese folk & indigenous music

MILES OKAZAKI SEPTET, *Generations* (Sunnyside Records 2009)

TAYLOR HO BYNUM & ABRAHAM GOMEZ-DELGADO, *Positive Catastrophe* (Cuneiform Records 2009)

JEN SHYU QUARTET, *For Now* (4am Music 2002). Debut album as bandleader.

Teaching experience

Internationally celebrated and groundbreaking educator since 2003 in voice, composition, jazz, improvisation, multidisciplinary / intermedia arts, and ethnomusicology, and Asian Americans in the Arts and Anti-Asian Racism in the Arts. Shyu has private lessons as well as taught workshops and lectured throughout the US and world and moved her teaching to her Patreon page at the start of the pandemic lockdown in NYC (March 2020), where she teaches workshops such as: "Inner" Ear Strengthening for Improvisation, "Intensive Ear and Rhythm Training", "You Are Everything: Intermedia Improvisation Workshop," and hosts "Beyond" Jam Sessions, "Artist Survival & Wellness" and "Share Your Work" Salons + Grant Writing Masterclasses.

Universities and Schools where Shyu has taught and/or lectured: Harvard University, MA (Guest for Vijay Iyer's course "Music Makers of Asian America" in 2022; also invited to speak at the Barwick Colloquium Series 2018); International Contemporary Ensemble's Ensemble Evolution 2023 (curated by Rebekah Heller & Fay Victor), at the New School. Berklee School of Music, MA (piano department as well as leading a teach-in called "Being Asian and Asian American in the Music Industry"); Princeton University, NJ; Columbia University, NY; Brown University, RI; McGill University, Montreal; Manhattan School of Music; NYU; University of North Carolina Chapel Hill hosted by Carolina Performing Arts, NC; Banff International Jazz & Creative Music Workshop 2014, 2017, 2018, Canada; New School/Mannes School of Music, University of Michigan Residency, Creative Music Studio, NYC; UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Davis, UC Irvine, CalArts, Mills College, UC Berkeley, CA; Washington University, St. Louis, MO; University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, IL; Rice University, Houston, TX; Northern Illinois University, IL; Rhizome, DC; as well as for young people at: Georgetown Day School, Washington, D.C.; TAPA (Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts) & Jacqueline Walsh School for the Arts, Providence, RI; ACES Educational Center for the Arts, New Haven, CT; Yinghua Academy,

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Minneapolis, MN; Sejong Academy, St. Paul, MN; Rhizome & Boys and Girls Club, THEARC, Washington, D.C.; Edmonds-Woodway High School, Edmonds, WA.

International teaching: FocusYear Basel, Jazzcampus; Sydney Conservatory and Monash University; Australia; Institut Seni Indonesia Yogyakarta (Art Institute of Indonesia in Yogyakarta), Indonesia; Seoul Institute of the Arts, Yonsei University, Seoul University, Korea; villages in Timor-Leste and in collaboration with the women's cooperative Boneca de Atauro; and throughout Europe (FocusYear Basel, Switzerland; Siena Jazz International Summer Workshop 2016, 2018, 2019; Jazz Club Ferrara, Italy; Summer Session | JazzDanmark, Vallekilde, Syddansk Musikkonservatorium, Esbjerg, Denmark; Akademie für Tonkunst, Darmstadt, Germany; AMR (Association pour l'encouragement de la musique improvisée), CPMDT/L'Abri, Geneva, Switzerland; Conservatorium van Amsterdam, Holland; Yoga Sobre O Porto, Portugal.

Articles

- Shyu, Jen. (April 2021). *Zero Grasses and Fertility: Your Backstory Is the Real Story*. **Mutual Mentorship for Musicians (M³) Anthology of Writings Volume 1**. Ed. Jordannah Elizabeth, *Mutual Mentorship for Musicians (M³)*.
- Parker, William. (September 2019). Interview with Jen Shyu. **Conversations III**. Ed. Hazell, RogueArt.
- Shyu, Jen. (2015). Harsh Ghost Pulling. **Giving Birth to Sound: Women in Creative Music**. Ed. Renate da Rin, coed. William Parker, Buddy's Knife.
- Shyu, Jen. (September 2012). Lelewå: Memoirs of a Bone and Voice Tracer. **Arcana VI: Musicians on Music**. Ed. John Zorn, Hips Road/Tzadik.