Young Composer’s Dream Comes True, as Acclaimed Orchestra Performs His Work

Yao Chen is a 2005-2006 Residential Fellow at International House

Yao Chen is awe-struck. For the first time in his life, an orchestra just performed one of his compositions. It was not just any orchestra, either. It was the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, the only full-time professional chamber orchestra in the country and one of the best in the world.

“This is just overwhelmingly amazing,” said Yao, a fifth-year doctoral composition student in Music. “I don’t think I’ve ever been so inspired. It’s just so wonderful.”

Yao, who gave the musicians a composition called Two Poems, sat on the stage in Mandel Hall as the 34-member orchestra learned his music and performed it again and again. Aside from the few times he jumped up to work with a bass player or a percussionist-just to make sure they knew exactly what sounds he was looking for-Yao got to sit back and listen. “A dream come true,” he said.

That dream was made possible through the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra’s three-year residency at the University. Hosted by the University of Chicago Presents, the University’s professional concert series, the SPCO is now in the middle of its first year at Chicago. “This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students,” said Cathy Sweitzer, Director of Communications for the University of Chicago Presents. “The opportunity for these young composers to write for a chamber orchestra and then to hear their works performed and critiqued by one of the best chamber orchestras in the world is really a rare and valuable gift. Students do not even get an opportunity like this at conservatories,” she added.

Cliff Colnot, the principal conductor for the University’s Contempo, as well as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra’s MusicNOW series, conducted the SPCO. Colnot gave commands about dynamic levels and crescendo as the musicians made their way through the whimsical, almost dreamlike Two Poems. The string musicians alternated between bows and plucking while a vibraphone enhanced the mood. In the audience, a crowd of music students watched in awe, many sitting on the edge of their seats while the University’s three resident composers nodded approvingly as they shared in Yao’s excitement.

Shulamit Ran, the Andrew MacLeish Distinguished Service Professor in Music; Kotoka Suzuki, Assistant Professor in Music; and Marta Ptaszynska, the Helen B. and Frank L. Sulzberger Professor in Music, all followed along on the over-sized, hand-written sheet music Yao gave them, smiling approvingly as the piece came alive. Ptaszynska, an acclaimed opera composer and Yao’s composition instructor, explained that when she was a student at the Academy of Music in Warsaw, Poland, she worked with a full professional orchestra every week.

“That is how I can do what I do—I can hear the orchestra playing the notes as I write them,” she said. “But in this country, that opportunity does not exist. That’s why this is such a fantastic opportunity. It’s almost like 40 years ago in Poland. It’s a beautiful thing.”

Complete text of this article can be viewed at http://chronicle.uchicago.edu/060202/youngcomposer.shtml

By Jennifer Carnig, News Office

The University of Chicago Chronicle

February 2, 2006, Vol. 25 No. 9

International House is launching an unprecedented new Residential Fellowship Program. Beginning in the 2006–2007 academic year, International House will award 140 Residential Fellowships to qualified individuals. Each year International House seeks to assemble a highly qualified and diverse community committed to international exchange. The admissions process seeks to identify individuals who will participate in community life and the ideals of the House. As a part of this process and through the generous support of corporations, foundations and individuals such as International House alumni and friends, grants are made available to qualified residents and new applicants to assist with housing and living expenses. These grants help ensure that International House remains a financially viable option to as many students as possible, maintaining the exceptional geographic, cultural and economic diversity that is central to our mission.

Twenty-five third year and twenty-five fourth year students in the College at the University of Chicago will be awarded Collegiate Fellowships and ninety in-coming graduate students in the Divisions and the professional schools will be awarded Graduate Fellowships. Fellows will reside at International House through the academic year and will receive an award of $1000. Fellows will be chosen on a competitive basis of merit and the ability to contribute to the social and intellectual aspects of International House. Fellowships are open to both American and international students. Applications and additional information are available on our Web site at http://ihouse.uchicago.edu or by calling the Office of Programs and External Relations at (773) 753-2273 or i-house-programs@uchicago.edu.

From the Desk of the Director—

April, 2006

Much of our recent energy has been focused on restoring this beautiful building and its contents. We have worked with a local restoration company to bring several original furnishings back into the daily life of the House for residents and guests to enjoy. Original desks, book shelves, an ornate writing desk and several accent cabinets have been lovingly restored and placed back in the House. The large wooden Library study tables have been refinished and the “Kissing Bench” once again sits near the front door. It is wonderful to see our history find its proper place in our daily life.

But as we work to preserve the history of the House, we also look to its future as part of a larger movement around the globe. I have recently returned from a meeting in Melbourne, Australia where International House directors from around the world gathered to discuss our common goals and concerns. There we discussed forming a stronger world-wide association of the fifteen existing Houses and heard preliminary information on the construction of new International House’s in Scotland and China. These closely follow the opening of the first Canadian House in Alberta in 2003. It was heartening to see the International House experience manifest itself in an increasing demand for this unique multi-cultural experience. It is our hope to continue to expand opportunities for students from around the world to learn from one another and to help change the way we see the world one person at a time.

William L. McCartney, Director

International House Receives the 2006 Marian and Leon Despres Architectural Preservation Award

For more than fifty years Marian and Leon Despres have nurtured the movement to save Chicago’s architectural treasures. International House, completed in 1932 as an Art Deco version of the University of Chicago’s Collegiate Gothic style, has been renovated and restored to meet the needs of the twenty-first century while preserving its architectural history.

On February 25, 2006, International House was honored with the Marian and Leon Despres Architectural Preservation Award, in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the preservation of Hyde Park’s Architectural Heritage.

International House at the University of Chicago
1414 East 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60637

Telephone: (773) 753-2274
FAX: (773) 753-1227
Email: i-house-programs@uchicago.edu
Visit our web site at http://ihouse.uchicago.edu

Stay in touch by signing up for our electronic news bulletins!
Upcoming events include:

**Chicago Ensemble Chamber Music Concert, Program IV**

Sunday, April 9, 2006, 3:00 p.m.

The critically acclaimed Chicago Ensemble is a Chicago-based performance ensemble dedicated to the small group chamber music repertoire. Program IV features music by Beethoven, Roy Harris, Kodály, and Amy Beach. Program and ticket information can be found at www.thechicagoensemble.org

**Asha for Education presents:**

**Notes of Hope featuring John Wubbenhorst & Facing East**

Saturday, April 15, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

A soulful fusion of Indian classical and jazz, *Billboard Magazine* credits John Wubbenhorst with “setting the bansuri against backdrops that aren’t traditional; revealing melodies within melodies, like a fractal design headed toward infinity.”

**Candid Jazz Conversations**

Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 7:00 p.m.

A new series of monthly programs sponsored by the University of Chicago Hospitals Office of Community Affairs; featuring saxophonist Michael Manson and bassist Kirk Whalum.

**Along the Gypsy Trail**

Friday, May 5–Sunday, May 7, 2006

The Caravan is coming! Co-sponsored with the Kalapriya Foundation and coinciding with Asian History Month, this three-day multi-cultural dance festival features traditional dances from India, Eastern Europe, Spain, Africa and the Middle East. The program will also include a culinary journey along the gypsy trail curated by ABC News food critic Steve Dolinsky. This program is funded in part by the Illinois Arts Council, University of Chicago-Arts Planning Council and the Committee on Southern Asian Studies.

**Department of Music Middle East Music Ensemble**

Friday, May 12, 2006, 8:00 p.m.

**CandleOpera presents:**

**La Clemenza di Tito**

In conjunction with the Consulate General of Austria in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mozart’s birth, CandleOpera will present the invention of Clemency, Mozart’s late dramatic study of the ancient rule of Titus. This famous emperor of Rome changed the role of government with advances in charity and mercy. A highly virtuosic psychological battle and love story for six singers, La Clemenza di Tito is acknowledged as one of Mozart’s most poignant and beautiful operatic writing.

**MESSA Music Festival**

Friday, May 19th, 6:30 p.m.

Featuring Muslim hip hop and Maghrebi-Jazz fusion artists Yvon and the Wolfskin Project

**Haitian Flag Day featuring Haitian cuisine and cultural performances**

Sunday, May 21 at 3pm

**The Chicago Ensemble, Program V**

Season finale! Program V features music by Telemann, Mozart, Hindemith, and Poulenc. Program and ticket information can be found at www.thechicagoensemble.org
Global Voices Lecture Series

The Global Voices Lecture Program presents prominent speakers and organizes round-table discussion groups and special interest conferences and seminars.

**Researching Native America: Current Perspectives on American Indians**

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

The beloved niece of British Columbia, living video and media as a tool to help recover Native Culture

Julie Hoffman, Visiting Lecturer, Committee on Cinema & Media Studies & Visual Art at the University of Chicago

*Tuesday, April 4, 2006 5:30–7:00 p.m.*

The Origen of the Sun Dance

Professor Raymond Fogelson, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

Mestizaje and identity in Andean Indigenous Scholars’ Experience

Antonio Desimone, doctoral student, Department of Comparative Human Development, University of Chicago

**Beyond the Headlines**

*Thursday, May 4, 2006 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

The Federal Termination Movement & the Cahuilla Federated Tribes

Dr. Laurie Arnold, Assistant Director of the D’Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian History, The Newberry Library Chicago

*Thursday, May 18, 2006 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

Saving the House: Seminole Sovereignty in the Casino Era

Professor Jessica R. Cattelino, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago

*Tuesday, May 30, 2006 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

Setting the House: Seminole Sovereignty in the Casino Era

Professor Jessica R. Cattelino, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago

**Media as a Tool to Help Reclaim Native Culture**

*Tuesday, April 18, 2006 3:30–5:00 p.m.*

The Global Voices Lecture Program presents prominent

Professor Raymond Fogelson, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago

*Friday, April 7, 2006 4:00–5:30 p.m.*

Realizing Human Rights: Access to HIV/AIDS Medication and the Role of Civil Society in South Africa

Zweli Achmat, South African activist, about her new book, "The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs" speaking on his autobiography Art Ordinary After

*Monday, April 17, 2006 6:30–7:30 p.m.*

A Conversation with Former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright

Co-sponsored with the Chicago Theological Seminary

*Wednesday, May 17, 2006 5:00 p.m.*

A Conversation with Former Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright

International House Alumni Receive Prestigious Awards from the University of Chicago

Each year, the University of Chicago’s Alumni Board of Governors recognizes alumni who have made notable contributions to society and the University. Among the 2006 Alumni Award Winners are three former International House residents.

Frances Oldham Kelsey, PhD’38, MD’50 is awarded the Professional Achievement Citation. Dr. Kelsey arrived at International House from Canada in 1936 for graduate work at the University of Chicago, receiving her PhD in pharmacology in 1938 and her MD in 1950. Dr. Kelsey was appointed as a Medical Officer of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1960 where her work with the U.S. Congress led increased drug regulations and the federal government's role as protector of public health.

Wai Keung Cheng, MBA’73, is awarded the University Alumni Service Medal. Mr. Cheng arrived at International House from Hong Kong in 1971 and received his MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business (GSB) in 1973. Now living in Singapore, he established the GSB Singapore campus in 2000.

Bertram Cohler, G’57, AB’61 is awarded the Norman Maclean Faculty Award for extraordinary contributions to teaching. Professor Cohler, a native of Chicago, arrived at International House in the Autumn of his third year in the College. Living high in the I-House tower room overlooking the University, his nascent career with the University of Chicago would soar to even greater heights. His teaching in the College has twice garnered him the coveted Quantrell Award, the nation’s oldest prize for undergraduate teaching.

Make a World of Difference!

Fun and easy ways to give to International House

• Ice cream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! A gift of $3,000 will buy ice cream for the weekly Resident Social Hour for one quarter.

• Trip the light fantastic! Your gift of $50,000 will provide new stage lighting in the Assembly Hall for the Global Voices Performing Arts series.

• Where in the world? A gift of $2,500 will buy a 10' x 10' world map for the Main Hallway.

• Guess who’s coming to dinner? Host the traditional Sunday Supper and Candle-lighting Ceremony for your gift of $15,000; includes a table for you and your family.

• Show your true colors! Purchase your country’s flag for a gift of $250.

To make a gift contact Alumni Relations at International House at (773) 753-2273 or email i-house-programs@uchicago.edu

In Memoriam

Denyse Snyers 1921–2006

Friends around the world mourn the passing on March 9, 2006, of Denyse Snyers. Her legacy lives on through the thousands of friendships she fostered in nearly four decades as Director of Crossroads International Student Center in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. Among her many accomplishments, Denyse was instrumental in garnering support for the English as a Second Language Program and the International Spouse Program at International House.

On June 4 at 6:00 p.m., International House alumni are invited to join current residents for the Traditional Sunday Supper, a festive end-of-the-year dinner which includes the candle lighting ceremony and presentation of the Resident of the Year Award. Tickets $50; advanced purchase required; call (773) 753-2273 or email i-house-programs@uchicago.edu

Every June as the academic year ends and students get ready to graduate, the University invites you back for an extended weekend of fun—Chicago style. Tours and exhibitions reorient you to campus. Faculty-led sessions let you relive the vitality of a Chicago classroom. Alumni achievements are honored. And throughout the weekend a variety of social events give you the chance to rejoin what Hutchins called the “Great Conversation” with faculty, students, and one another. Visit alumniweekend.uchicago.edu for updates on events and activities. Renovated guest rooms are available at International House for Alumni Weekend. Please contact the International House at (773) 753-2276 or email i-house-housing@listhost.uchicago.edu for rates and availability.

By establishing a planned gift today you are ensuring that the International House continues to grow and flourish over the years. Establishing a planned gift also allows you to receive income during your lifetime and leave a legacy for future residents. There are several ways of giving to International House:

Bequests. The simplest way for donors to plan for the International House’s future is by including a provision in their estate plans. Testamentary gifts for the International House can be directed for general, unrestricted use or for the support of a particular need or project. Donors making provisions for the International House in their estate plans are entitled to an estate tax deduction for the gift.

Charitable Gift Annuities. In exchange for a gift to the International House of $10,000 or more in cash or securities, a gift annuity donor will receive a fixed, guaranteed income for life. The annuity rate is based in part on the donor’s age and the donor receives a charitable income tax deduction in the year you fund the annuity.

Charitable Remainder Unitrusts. If a source of income is of interest to a donor, another gift vehicle to consider is a charitable remainder unitrust, with the University serving as trustee. Cash, securities, or real property may be used to establish a charitable remainder unitrust. Payments to the income beneficiaries are variable, depending on the performance of the trust portfolio, which the donor chooses in consultation with the University’s investment managers. At the end of the trust’s term, the remainder may be available for use by the International House for the purpose designated by the donor at the time of the gift.

Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets. Donors might also consider naming the International House as a beneficiary of a 401(k), TIAA-CREF, or other retirement plan. By naming a charitable institution rather than an individual, the retirement assets will pass outside the donor’s estate and avoid probate, as well as income and estate taxes.

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For more information on planned gifts or to let us know you have provided for the International House in your estate plans, please contact Heather McClean at 773.834.2117 or hmcclean@development.uchicago.edu.