



Vincent HO

Rejuvenation: A Taoist Journey for Pipa, Narrator, and Orchestra

Vincent Ho is a multi-award winning composer of orchestral, chamber, vocal, and theatre music. His works have been described as “brilliant and compelling” by The New York Times and hailed for their profound expressiveness and textural beauty, leaving audiences talking about them with great enthusiasm. His many awards have included Harvard University’s Fromm Music Commission, The Canada Council for the Arts Robert Fleming Prize, ASCAP’s Morton Gould Young Composer Award, four SOCAN Young Composers Awards, and CBC Radio’s Audience Choice Award (2009 Young Composers Competition). Born in Ottawa, Ontario in 1975, Vincent Ho began his musical training through Canada’s Royal Conservatory of Music where he received his Associate Diploma in Piano Performance. He gained his Bachelor of Music from the University of Calgary, his Master of Music from the University of Toronto, and his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California. From 2007-2014, Dr. Ho served as the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra’s composer-in-residence. He received further recognition in the interim, including the prestigious Fromm Music Commission from Harvard University for his *Sonata for Violin and Piano*, the 2005 “Hultgren Solo Cello Works Biennial” and Earplay’s 2004 “Donald Aird Memorial Composition Award” for *Stigmata*, and Portland Chamber Music Festival’s 2006 “Composers’ Competition Prize” for *Shattering the Ethereal Resonance*. He was also awarded Canada Council for the Arts’ 2006 “Robert Fleming Young Composer of the Year Prize”. Dr. Ho is currently teaching at the University of Calgary.

Rejuvenation was commissioned by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO), with the financial support from the Government of Canada, for performance at the TSO’s Chinese New Year concert during the 150th anniversary for the Confederation of Canada in 2017. It was specially written for Dashan (narrator), Wu Man (pipa), and Long Yu (Conductor). Dashan (Mark Rowswell) and I spent a great amount of time brainstorming on possible themes for the work, but one idea stood out for me: Taoism. The *Tao Te Ching*, written by Lao-tzu, has been a source of inspiration and spiritual guidance for many centuries. It is one of the most translated books in the world continues to be one of China’s greatest contributions to humanity. My aim as a composer was to express the essence of Taoism in musical form. This concept has been practiced for many centuries and is a tradition that continues to this very day. Music of this kind is not intended for entertainment purposes nor does it court popularity. It is to guide listeners in reaching spiritual wholeness and connect with Taoist principles. Thus playing and listening to such music is an act of contemplation and a process of self-purification that would eventually lead to spiritual enlightenment. (*Program note by the composer*)