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Pulitzer Prize-Winning Composer, Zhou Long, Featured in Composition Residency at the University of Oklahoma



Norman, Oklahoma – The Flute New Music Consortium and the University of Oklahoma will host a Composition Residency featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning composer, Zhou Long on **Thursday, October 1st** and **Friday, October 2nd, 2015** at the **University of Oklahoma**, Catlett Music Center (Catlett Music Center, 500 W Boyd St, Norman, OK 73069). Hailed by critics as “a pioneer in transferring the idiomatic sounds and techniques of ancient Chinese musical traditions to modern Western instruments and ensembles,” Zhou Long has achieved international acclaim for his ability to synthesize elements of Eastern and Western traditions. This two day event features a master class with Zhou, a lecture, and coachings with OU and SWOSU student performers. The final concert will showcase SWOSU and OU musicians in performances of Zhou’s solo, chamber, and choral works and will include the premiere of *Confluence*, a newly commissioned work for solo flute. Events begin Thursday at 2:30pm and resume on Friday at 4:15pm. This event is made possible in part by the generous support of the Oklahoma Arts Council and with additional support from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. All events are free and open to the public. Please visit www.flutenewmusicconsortium.com for more information and a full schedule for events.

More About the Composer

Zhou Long (b. July 8, 1953, Beijing) is internationally recognized for creating a unique body of music that brings together the aesthetic concepts and musical elements of East and West. Deeply grounded in the entire spectrum of his Chinese heritage, including folk, philosophical, and spiritual ideals, he is a pioneer in transferring the idiomatic sounds and techniques of ancient Chinese musical traditions to modern Western instruments and ensembles. His creative vision has resulted in a new music that stretches

Western instruments eastward and Chinese instruments westward, achieving an exciting and fertile common ground.

Zhou Long was born into an artistic family and began piano lessons at an early age. During the Cultural Revolution, he was sent to a rural state farm, where the bleak landscape with roaring winds and ferocious wild fires made a profound and lasting impression. He resumed his musical training in 1973, studying composition, music theory, and conducting, as well as Chinese traditional music. In 1977, he enrolled in the first composition class at the reopened Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Following graduation in 1983, he was appointed composer-in-residence with the National Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra of China. Zhou Long travelled to the United States in 1985 under a fellowship to attend Columbia University, where he studied with Chou Wen-Chung, Mario Davidovsky, and George Edwards, receiving a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in 1993. After more than a decade as music director of Music from China in New York City, he received ASCAP's prestigious Adventurous Programming Award in 1999.

Zhou Long was awarded the prestigious Pulitzer Prize in Music for his first opera, *Madame White Snake*. In their citation the jurors described the work as 'a deeply expressive opera that draws on a Chinese folk tale to blend the musical traditions of the East and the West.' He has been awarded 2012-2013 Elise Stoecker Prize from the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center; the largest prize devoted to chamber music composition and is presented every two years in recognition of significant contributions to the field. Zhou Long is currently Distinguished Professor of Music at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance.

In 2012, Zhou Long composed two orchestral works: *University Festival Overture* and *Beijing Rhyme - A Symphonic Suite*, commissioned by the Beijing Symphony Orchestra, premiered and recorded on EMI in 2013; a solo piano work *Pianobells*, commissioned by Dr. Susan Chan and premiered at the Musica Nova concert in the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance; a chamber work, *Cloud Earth* for chamber ensemble, commissioned by The New York New Music Ensemble and premiered on its 35th anniversary celebration at the Merkin Concert Hall in New York City. In 2013, Zhou Long composed his epic evening-length symphonic work *Nine Odes* on poems by Qu Yaun (ca. 340 BCE - 278 BCE) for four solo vocalists and orchestra, commissioned by the Beijing Music Festival Arts Foundation and premiered in October 2013 as a tribute to his 60th.

2014 has seen the completion of a new chamber work, *Tales from the Nine Bells*, co-commissioned and premiered by the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society in New York and Wigmore Hall in London for their 2014 Seasons, and a new piano concerto, *Postures*, co-commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and BBC Proms, which was premiered on 4 July 2014 in Singapore and 2 September 2014 at Royal Albert Hall, as part of the BBC Proms' 2014 season

Flute New Music Consortium, Inc. is an Oklahoma incorporated 501c3 non-profit organization that unites flutists from around the world with the purpose of promoting new music for the flute by commissioning works, organizing simultaneous premieres, and encouraging repeat performances. Recent recognitions include grants from the Oklahoma Arts Council, National Flute Association and the Illinois Music Entrepreneurship Competition and presentations and performances at regional and national flute conferences. FNMC members include college professors and performers from around the country, including SWOSU, University of Illinois, Carnegie Mellon, Florida State University, Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, Kansas State University, and University of Oklahoma, among others.

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