

Tam Ka Shu (Kenneth)

PhD, Music Composition

14C, Block 5, Provident Centre, North Point, Hong Kong
+852-91207441 | tamkashu@gmail.com | www.tamkashu.com

EDUCATION

- 2016 – 2020** **PhD in Music Composition** | University at Buffalo
- Major Advisor: **Prof. David Felder**
 - Other Teachers: Prof. Cort Lippe and Prof. Jonathan Golove
- 2013 – 2015** **MM in Music Composition** | University of Missouri - Kansas City
- Major Advisor: **Dr. James Mobberley**
 - Other Teachers: Dr. Chen Yi, Dr. Zhou Long and Dr. Paul Rudy
- 2010 – 2013** **BA in Music (Composition/Music Production)** | Hong Kong Baptist University
- Major Advisor: **Prof. Christopher Keyes**
 - Other Teachers: Dr. Christopher Coleman

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Choir Assistant, University at Buffalo, 2020

- Research choral literature that are culturally suitable for local choirs to perform
- Lead sectional rehearsals
- Work as a choir librarian and assist choral director in preparing materials

Senior Research Assistant, 2016

Laboratory for Immersive Arts and Technology, Hong Kong Baptist University

- Assisted Prof. Christopher Keyes in his research of surround sound panning
- Collected and analyzed data
- Managed recording studio and laboratory
- Occasionally **taught** MUSI2035 Music Technology tutorials

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor, University at Buffalo, 2017- 2019

- **MUS400SEM** Composition seminar, **MUS116LEC** Music Theory for Non-Majors
- Designed the course syllabus and materials

- Introduced the music composition techniques in the 20th – 21st century
- Introduced tonal theory and basic harmony to students
- Guided students to develop their own piece with their own voice

Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo, Fall 2016

- MUS115 Understanding Music
- Assisted Dr. Derek Strykowski in grading homework
- Occasionally **taught** one or two lessons

Composition Instructor, Hong Kong Composer's Guild Quality Education Fund, 2015 – 2016

- “Music Composition Training Programme with Cultural Exploration 2015/16”
- Taught secondary school students basic composition skills
- Designed syllabus and materials for the entire course
- Assisted students to create their own piece for final performance

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Orchestra Coach, 2012-2013

Diocesan Boy's School Primary Division (Hong Kong)

- Coached the upper string section of the school orchestra

OTHER FIELD-RELATED EXPERIENCE

Freelance Composer and Tutor, 2014 – present

- Collaborating and creating artworks periodically
- Teaching music theory and composition techniques to private students

ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE

Project Coordinator, 2015 – 2016

Music Department, Hong Kong Baptist University

- Communicated between various organization
- Coordinated events such as public concerts, school concerts, symposiums and conferences
- Managed recording studio, professional music hardware and software, including studio microphones, mixers, audio interface, filming cameras, notation software, DAWs, computers
- Designed posters for departmental news and events
- Maintained social media pages for the department
- Occasionally assisted Prof. Keyes in MUSI2035 Music Technology tutorials

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, International Computer Music Association, 2018 – present

Member, Hong Kong Composers' Guild, 2012 – present

Member, Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong, 2012 – present

AWARDS AND ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

- Graduate Tuition Scholarship (Full Scholarship), University at Buffalo, 2016 – 2020
- Teaching Assistantship, University at Buffalo, 2016 – 2020
- Speech Choir Young Composer Award (2013)
RhapsoArt Limited, and, Hong Kong Education Bureau
- New Generation 2012, Third Prize
Hong Kong Composer's Guild, and, Radio Television Hong Kong

PUBLICATIONS AND RECENT PROJECTS

1. Commercial Publications

- 2021 First **personal album** will be published by PARMA Recordings. (Mastering in progress)
- 2020 *...Into Dirt...* for the Arditti Quartet will be commercially published through online music platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.
- 2020 *Beyond the Frontier of the Great Wall* for SATB choir is recorded into a CD for commercial distribution. ***(postponed due to COVID-19)**

2. Conferences, Festivals and Upcoming Artistic Projects

- 2021- **Collaborative Concert with Vertixe Sonora (Spain and Hong Kong)**
- 2022
- Funded by the **Hong Kong Arts Development Council**
 - Major collaborator and composer
 - Details will be announced
- 2021 **Collaborative Concert with Hong Kong New Music Ensemble**
- *Wozzy* for trumpet, clarinet, violin and viola

- 2020 **World New Music Day: ISCM 2020 cum Asian Composers League Conference (Auckland, New Zealand) *(POSTPONED TO 2022 DUE TO COVID-19)**
- *Flux* for string trio will receive its New Zealand premiere
- 2019 **Bilkent Composition Academy (Ankara, Turkey)**
- *...Into Dirt...* received its world premiere by the *Arditti Quartet*.
- 2019 **“Screening Performance, Performing Screens” New Projections in Theatre and Media Conference (New York City, USA)**
- Interdisciplinary collaboration project (see *Collaborations* below)
 - Compose music for a screen dance by director Mary Schnepf
- 2018 **MUSLab International Electroacoustic Exhibition (Mexico City, Mexico)**
- Title of the piece: **City Story – Flying Sword**
- 2018 **The 35th Asian Composers League Conference and Festival (ACL) (Taipei, Taiwan)**
- Title of the piece: **City Story – Flying Sword**
- 2018 **The 43rd International Computer Music Conference (ICMC) (Daegu, Korea)**
- Selected for performance in the 43rd conference
 - Title of the piece: **City Story – Flying Sword**
- 2016 **International Composers Rostrum (Warsaw, Poland)**
- Selected by the Hong Kong Composer’s Guild to represent Hong Kong
 - Title of the piece: **Tam-tam Sonata**

3. Other Professional Publication (selected)

- 2018 *Reaction I for solo Viola* was premiere in Hong Kong and received radio broadcast through Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) twice.
- 2017 *Tam-tam Sonata* received radio broadcast in **Croatia**.
- 2017 *Tam-tam Sonata* received radio broadcast in **Australia**.
- 2015 *Night Song* received broadcast through Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK).
- 2013 *Ideal Reality* was archived in the Hong Kong Central Library Music Collection

COMMISSIONS (selected)

- 2017 **Contemporary Vocal & Choral Compositions of Chinese Poems**
- A two-year-long project commissioned by *Dr. Kwong Kai To Rural Training College Alumni Association Limited* and the *Hong Kong Composer's Guild*.
 - Title of the piece: **Beyond the Frontier of the Great Wall**
- 2016 **CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir Commission**
- Composed an SSAA choral piece **The Story Started from a Teddy** to be performed in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival
- 2015 **CCC Kei Wan Primary School Senior Choir Commission**
- Composed an SSAA choral piece, **Night Song**, to be performed in the Hong Kong Schools Music Festival
- 2013 **Hong Kong Speech Choir Showcase Commission**
- Commissioned by the Hong Kong Education Bureau
 - Title of the piece: **Ideal Reality**

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE (selected)

1. Intradisciplinary Collaborations

- 2020 **Hong Kong New Music Ensemble**
- Composed **“Woozy”**
- 2020 **Ensemble Mise-En (USA) *(postponed due to COVID-19)**
- Composed **“Path of Heaven”**
- 2019 **Irvine Arditti (UK)**
- Composed **“Reaction II”** for his violin solo performance
- 2019 **Arditti Quartet (UK)**
- Composed **“...Into Dirt...”** for the legendary Arditti quartet
- 2019 **The Hayley-and-Laufer Duo (USA/Canada)**
- Composed a piece **“Phoenix Hairpin I”** for the duo
- 2018 **Zhiteng Terry Luo (clarinetist, China)**
- Composed **“___-cide”** for a clarinet, trumpet and piano

- 2018 **HANATSU miroir (France)**
 - Composed a flute and clarinet duet, *Perplexing Plane*
- 2018 **Hippocrates Cheng (Overtone Singer/composer, Hong Kong)**
 - Composed a piece, *Manjusaka*, for overtone singing and viola
- 2013 **dissonArt Ensemble (Greece)**
 - Composed a piece for flute, cello and toy piano

2. Interdisciplinary Collaborations

- 2019 **Mary Schnepf (Dancer/choreographer/film maker, USA)**
 - Created the sound track for her screen dance *As Within So Without*
- 2018 **Mary Schnepf (Dancer/choreographer/film maker, USA)**
 - Created the sound track for her Dance “*Alone*”
- 2016 **YiuHo Hsieh (Poet, Hong Kong)**
 - Compose a choir piece based on his newly created poem *The Story Started from a Teddy*
- 2016 **SOUND-IMAGInation: Hong Kong Landscape (music/photography)**
 - Work with various Hong Kong photographers

3. Performances

- 2013 **Violin Performances**
Wieniawski *Violin Concerto No.2* and Xenakis *Mikka for Solo Violin*
- 2010 – 2013 **Hong Kong Baptist University Choir**
Repertoires include Beethoven Mass in C, Britten A Ceremony of Carols, Copland Old American Songs, and others

4. Master Class Participation (Selected)

- 2020 **Robert H.P. Platz** – Composer, Germany
- 2019 **Lei Liang** – University of California, San Diego, China/USA

- 2019 **Brian Ferneyhough** – Stanford University, UK/USA
2019 **Eivind Buene** – Composer, Norway
2019 **Rolf Wallin** – Composer, Norway
2018 **Aaron Cassidy** – University at Huddersfield, USA/UK
2017 **Hans Thomalla** – Northwestern University, USA
2013 **Steven Stucky** – Cornell University, USA

OTHER SKILLS

- Languages: Fluent Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and English
- Advanced level in recording studio management
- Professional knowledge of industrial standard recording software Pro Tools
- Professional knowledge of software such as Finale, Ableton Live and MaxMSP

PROFESSIONAL REFEREES

1. **Prof. David Felder**

SUNY distinguished professor
116 Slee Hall
University at Buffalo
Buffalo, NY 14260
(716) 645-0658
felder@buffalo.edu

2. **Prof. James Mobberley**

University of Missouri Curators' Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Room 521C, PAC
UMKC Conservatory
4949 Cherry Street
Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 235-2968
mobberleyj@umkc.edu

3. **Prof. Christopher Keyes**

Hong Kong Baptist University
AST818
Sing Tao Building
Hong Kong Baptist University
Kowloon Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong
+852 - 3411-7388
ckeyes@hkbu.edu.hk