

Bright Sheng, an innovative composer/conductor/pianist, merges diverse musical traditions in works that transcend conventional aesthetic boundaries. He is an important leader in exploring and bridging musical esthetics. Respected as one of the foremost composers of our time whose stage, orchestral, chamber and vocal works are regularly performed throughout North America, Europe and Asia, Sheng is noted for the lyrical and melodic limpidity in his works, a Shostakovich sense of breadth in musical structure and phrasing, a Bartokian rhythmic propulsion, and dramatic gestures. Many of his works has strong Chinese/Asian influences, a result of his diligent study of Asian musical cultures over four decades.

Highlights on Sheng's music in past seasons are: September 2016, The San Francisco Opera premiered his much- anticipated new opera *Dream of the Red Chamber*, a 150' opera in two acts, with overwhelming public and critical acclaim. Within a week of the premiere, the tickets were sold out for the full, month-long run; and a two-minute online clip of the opera by *China Daily* received four million hits worldwide. The opera, with Sheng as both the composer and co-librettist together with a dream team of artists—David Henry Hwang as co-librettist, Stan Lai as stage director, and Tim Yip as art designer. During the same month, the San Francisco Symphony, led by Michael Tilson Thomas, premiered his *Dream of the Red Chamber Overture*, written for the symphony's Asian tour of China, Japan and Korea. In March 2017, *Dream of the Red Chamber* was the closing highlight for the Hong Kong Arts Festival who co-produced the opera. Again, the entire run was sold-out six months before the first performance. In May of the same year, his *Postcards* was given the American Composers Orchestra premiere. June, 2017 saw the world premiere of his 2016 revision of *Concerto for Orchestra: Zodiac Tales*, by the National Symphony in Washington DC, on the farewell concert for Christoph Eschenbach as the Music Director. In September 8-23, Sheng conducted the SFO production of *Dream of the Red Chamber* in a three-city tour in Beijing, Changsha, and Wuhan, again, with sold-out performances. The same opera was revived by the San Francisco Opera June-July of 2022, a first in the company's commissioning history. In January 2023, his viola concerto *Of Time and Love* was given a world premiere by violist Roberto Diaz and the Curtis Symphony Orchestra, co-commissioned by Curtis Institute and the Suzhou Symphony.

Sheng's music has been widely commissioned and performed by many of the world's most prestigious institutions, in North America including the San Francisco Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, New York City Opera, New York City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Chicago Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Houston Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Dallas Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Vancouver Symphony; in Europe including the Orchestra de Paris, Royal Concertgebouw, Orchestra Sinfonica dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, BBC Symphony of London, London Sinfonietta, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, BBC Symphony of Wales, G.B., Hamburg Radio Symphony (NDR), Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Dusseldorf Symphony, Duisburg Philharmonic, Dortmund Philharmonic, Branderburg Stage Opera Orchestra (Cottbus), St. Petersburg Philharmonic, National Symphony of Russia, Warsaw Symphony, Danish National Radio Symphony, Copenhagen Philharmonic, Bern

Symphony Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony, Turku Symphony Orchestra, Luxembourg Philharmonic, National Symphony of Spain, Orquesta Sinfonica de Bilbao, Gulbenkian Orchestra of Portugal, Slovenian Radio & TV Symphony, Orchestra of National Opera of Greece, Munich Chamber Orchestra, Paris Chamber Orchestra; and in Asia including New Zealand Symphony, Sidney Symphony Orchestra, Alliance of Asian Pacific Region Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic, Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony, Singapore Symphony, Malaysian Philharmonic, Seoul Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Shanghai Symphony, China National Symphony, Shanghai Philharmonic, National Symphony of Taiwan, Macao Symphony, Macao Chinese, China National Orchestra of Traditional Instruments, Thailand Philharmonic, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, Taipei City Chinese, and new formed symphonies in Hangzhou, Suzhou, Guiyang, among others.

Sheng has worked with many of the world's most distinguished musicians including Leonard Bernstein, Christoph Eschenbach, Kurt Masur, Michael Tilson Thomas, Leonard Slatkin, Charles Dutoit, Jaap von Zweden, David Zinman, Neeme Järvi, David Robertson, Hugh Wolff, Robert Spano, Marin Alsop, Bramwell Tovey, Gerald Schwarz, Eiji Oue, Jahja Ling, John Fiore, Jeffery Kahane, Shui Lan, Thomas Dasgaard, En Shao, Samuel Wong, Sakari Oramo, Miguel Harth-Bedoya, Muhai Tang, Maxim Valdes, Arthur Fagen, Carl St. Clair, George Manahan, Richard Buckley, Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Xian Zhang, Rossen Milanov, Yo Yo Ma, Emanuel Ax, Peter Serkin, Yefim Brofman, Gil Shaham, Lynn Harrell, Alisa Weilerstein, Richard Stoltzman, Cho-Liang Lin, Roberto Diaz, Edgar Meyer, Evelyn Glennie, Colin Currie, David Shifrin, Jane Eaglen, Elisabeth Futral, Joseph Kaiser, among others.

As a guest conductor, he has appeared with some of the most important orchestras, such as the San Francisco Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Seattle Symphony, New York Chamber Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, Dortmund Philharmonic, Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, China National Symphony, and Shanghai Symphony.

As a scholar, he has published articles exploring themes of Chinese and Asian musical traditions within global context. Articles have been published in *Asian Art & Culture* of the Smithsonian Institution, *Perspectives of New Music*, and *People's Music of China*; and most recently an article on the creation of the opera *Dream of the Red Chamber*, by *Cao Xueqin Study*, one of the most prestigious Redology journals in China. Sheng also undertook the only Chinese translation of Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* from German.

To further his belief that music is a living, breathing art form that should never be set in stone, in 2011, he founded and served as the Artistic Director of the *Intimacy of Creativity*, an annual two-week music festival with a new approach to creativity, the centerpiece of the creative arts initiatives by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. To celebrate its fifth anniversary in 2016, the festival collaborated with the Hong Kong Philharmonic and Hong Kong Arts Festival, including a Five-Year Retrospective concert and a two-disc release on the Naxos Records label, including the premiere recording of *Verklarte Nacht* conducted by Sheng. Sheng is the Leonard Bernstein Distinguished University Professor of Music at the University of Michigan; and Helmut and Anna Pao Sohmen Professor-at-Large at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Currently he serves as the Distinguished Artist-in-Residence for New

York University Shanghai, curating a 10-day celebration for its 10th anniversary in the city of Shanghai.

曾獲麥卡瑟“天才”大獎的盛宗亮在 1955 年 12 月 6 日出生於上海，1982 年移居美國紐約。現任密西根大學倫那德伯恩斯坦傑出大學教授及香港科技大學包玉剛傑出客席教授。他目前受聘于上海纽约大学任杰出驻校艺术家。

盛宗亮曾與許多傑出的音樂家合作，其中包括伯恩斯坦、馬佐、艾勳巴哈、迪圖瓦、MTT,斯拉金、斯瓦茲、羅伯森、津曼、賈維、史巴諾、沃夫、馬友友、舍爾金、艾克斯、林昭亮、卜朗夫門、格藍妮等等。

他廣受委約，幾乎在北美、歐洲及亞洲每個著名的音樂機構都曾上演他的作品，其中包括：美國白宮、2008 年北京國際奧運會、紐約愛樂樂團、波士頓交響樂團、克里福蘭管弦樂團、芝加哥交響樂團、費城交響樂團、皇家音樂廳管弦樂團、巴黎樂團、英國 B B C 交響樂團、漢堡廣播交響樂團、丹麥國家交響樂團、舊金山歌劇院，芝加哥抒情大劇院、桑塔費歌劇院，紐約市歌劇院，紐約市芭蕾舞劇院，及舊金山芭蕾舞劇院等。

2016 年由他作曲並聯手作詞的歌劇《紅樓夢》，由舊金山歌劇院委約在美國首演，戲票全部售空。2017 年 3 月在香港藝術節上演又是一票難求。同年 9 月，盛宗亮親自指揮該劇在北京、長沙、武漢三處中國巡演。去年六月，旧金山歌剧院又将《红楼梦》歌剧重演，此举在该歌剧院的委約史上是绝无仅有的。

盛宗亮的全部作品均為美國 G Schirmer 公司專權出版。與它合作錄製過專集唱片公司有：Naxos、Sony Classical、Talarc、Delos、Koch International、New World labels 及 Grammofon AB BIS 等等。他有 14 張專輯 CD。

深受東亞及中亞民間和古典音樂傳統的影響，他的音樂既戲劇化又抒情。自 2000 年起，他深入研究絲路文化的種種。他曾擔任由馬友友發起的“絲綢之路”樂團的藝術顧問。

作為指揮家及鋼琴家，他曾與眾多音樂團體合作，其中重要的包括美國舊金山交響樂團、底特律交響樂團、西雅圖交響樂團、紐約室內交響樂團、葛蘭碧交響樂團、俄羅斯聖彼得堡愛樂樂團、德國多爾特蒙愛樂樂團、中國國家交響樂團，並常在卡內基音樂大廳、林肯中心、肯尼迪藝術中心等處演出。

自從 2011 年起，盛宗亮在香港創建了每年一度的作曲演奏大師班：創意間的親匿——盛宗亮與國際作曲家河演奏家相聚在香港，並任其藝術總監。其影響非常成功，受到美國華爾街時報，英國經濟時報，以及香港文彙報，信報等讚譽。“創作間的親暱”的音樂會由香港 RTHK 合作播出，其演出、討論實況並由 Naxos 收入其音樂圖書館。
