

# Tam Ka Shu (Kenneth)

PhD, Music Composition

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## 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

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Instructor, University at Buffalo, Fall 2019**

- **MUS400SEM** Composition seminar
- Designed the course syllabus and materials
- Introduced the music composition techniques in the 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Guided students to develop their own piece with their own voice

**Instructor, University at Buffalo, Fall 2017 – Spring 2019, 4 semesters**

- **MUS116LEC** Music Theory for Non-Majors
- Designed the course syllabus and materials based on given content
- Introduced tonal theory and basic harmony to students

**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

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

### **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 assisted in teaching MUSI2035 Music Technology tutorials

## **ADMINISTRATION EXPERIENCE**

### **Project Coordinator, 2015 – 2016**

Music Department, Hong Kong Baptist University

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

## **COACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Choir Assistant, University at Buffalo, Spring 2020**

- Lead sectional rehearsals
- Assist choral director in preparing materials
- Work as a choir librarian

### **Assistant Orchestra Coach, 2012-2013**

Diocesan Boy's School Primary Division (Hong Kong)

- Coached the upper string section of the school orchestra

## 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

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Tuition Scholarship (Full Scholarship), University at Buffalo, 2016 – 2020

Teaching Assistantship, University at Buffalo, 2016 – 2020

## AWARDS

Speech Choir Young Composer Award (2013), RhapsoArt Limited, Hong Kong Education Bureau

New Generation 2012, Third Prize, Hong Kong Composer's Guild, Radio Television Hong Kong

## MUSIC COMPOSITION ACHEIVEMENTS

### 1. Commercial Publications

2020      *...Into Dirt...* for the Arditti Quartet will be commercially published through online music platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music. **\*(postponed due to COVID-19)**

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. Conference and Festival Publications

2020      June in Buffalo Festival (Buffalo, USA)  
▪ Compose *Sprawl* for cello, bassoon and guitar

2020      World New Music Day: ISCM 2020 cum Asian Composers League Conference (Auckland, New Zealand) **\*(postponed due to COVID-19)**  
▪ *Flux* for string trio will received 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 35<sup>th</sup> Asian Composers League Conference and Festival (ACL) (Taipei, Taiwan)**
  - Title of the piece: **City Story – Flying Sword**
  
- 2018 **The 43<sup>rd</sup> International Computer Music Conference (ICMC) (Daegu, Korea)**
  - Selected for performance in the 43<sup>rd</sup> 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. Commissions

- 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**

### 4. Other Professional Achievements (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

## **PROFESSIONAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE**

### 1. Intradisciplinary Collaborations

- 2020 **Ensemble Mise-En (USA) \*(postponed due to COVID-19)**
- Compose *“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”*
  - Premiered in Katherine Cornell Theatre, USA

- 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
  - Composed a new piece based on the series on photo

### 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 **Eivind Buene** – Composer, Norway
- 2019 **Brian Ferneyhough** – Stanford University, UK/USA
- 2019 **Lei Liang** – University of California, San Diego, China/USA
- 2019 **Rolf Wallin** – Composer, Norway
- 2018 **Aaron Cassidy** – University at Huddersfield, USA/UK
- 2017 **Hans Thomalla** – Northwestern University, USA
- 2016 **Eric Moe** – University of Pittsburgh, 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