Lei Liang (b. 1972) is a Chinese-born American composer of mostly stage and chamber works that have been performed throughout the world. He studied composition with Sir Harrison Birtwistle, Robert Cogan, Chaya Czemowin, and Mario Davidovsky, and received degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music (BM and MM) and Harvard University (PhD). He has received commissions and performances include collaborations with the New York Philharmonic, the Heidelberger Philharmonisches Orchester, the Fromm Music Foundation, the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, the Manhattan Sinfonietta, the Arditti String Quartet, the Ying Quartet, the Meridian Arts Ensemble, San Francisco Contemporary Music Players, Boston Musica Viva, Shanghai Quartet, Argento Chamber Ensemble, percussionist Steven Schick, pipa player Wu Man, pianist Stephen Drury and flautist Paula Robison. Lei Liang’s music is released on Telarc International, GM, Spektral, Encounter, Opal Records and Mode Records (due in 2009). Since 2007, he has served as Assistant Professor of Music at the University of California, San Diego.

Upcoming Concerts

March 11, 6:00pm - UNLV Graduate Composers' Chamber Songs

March 11, 8:00pm - Guest Artist Cristina Valdes, pianist

April 8-12 - NEON Music Festival with visiting composers

Exact dates/times for concerts TBA

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Nextet Spring Concert No. 1
Featuring Student Composers and Lei Liang

The Lofty and the Beautiful
Farah Zolghadr - flute

In the Beginning
Farah Zolghadr - flute
Daniel Alameda - marimba

A Howl in F for solo Trumpet
Steve Trinkle - trumpet

Five Bagatelles for Horn & Marimba
No. 1 (Circles)
No. 2 (Squares)
No. 3 (Dots)
No. 4 (Lines)
No. 5 (Triangles)
Ryan Simm - marimba
Bryce Nakao - horn

In Praise of Shadows (flute solo)
Jennifer Grim - flute

My Windows (piano solo)
Anna Kijanowska - piano

In Praise of Shadows (flute solo)
"In Praise of Shadows" for flute was commissioned by and dedicated to Masahiro Arita. It was named after Jun'ichiro Tanizaki's inspiring essay on traditional Japanese architecture In Ei Lai San. I was introduced to this book by Takae, and the world has changed its color ever since I opened its first page. It is a mysterious darkness that only the genius of Tanizaki can illuminate.

The first performance was given by Jessi Rosinski on November 12th, 2005 in Paine Hall, Harvard University.
--Lei Liang

Lei Liang

My Windows (piano solo)

"Tian" is the first of six interludes in Garden Eight (for any solo instrument, 1996/2004). It consists of six relative durations and six pitches that are each permuted six times. The last movement, "Pausing, Awaiting the Wind to Rise..." is a variation of "Tian," and a reflection on the sounds I encountered while strolling in the woods.

"The Seven Rays of the Sun" refers to the Naimittika pralaya in Vishnu Purana. After the suns bum up the three worlds, a hundred years of rain pours down to envelop the worlds in one ocean. In the last section of the piece, I imagine the mysterious rays of light sinking into the deep seas while Vishnu sleeps on the waters.

The two outer movements of the suite were composed in 1996 and 2002 respectively; the two inner movements were composed in 2007. Each movement can be performed separately as an independent piece.

My Windows is dedicated to my wife Takae.
-- Lei Liang