

Saxophone Recital

Chee Meng Low, saxophone

Roger Admiral, piano

Featuring works by Decruck,
Schmitt, Rossé, Matsushita & Goh



In partial fulfillment of the Doctor of Music degree



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Tuesday, November 22, 2011
8:00 PM Convocation Hall

Free admission

Chee Meng Low, saxophone
Roger Admiral, piano

Programme

*Sonata in C# for Alto Saxophone
and Piano*
(1944)

Fernande Decruck

(1896-1954)

Très modéré, expressif

Andante

Fileuse

Nocturne et Final

Légende, op. 66
(1918)

Florent Schmitt
(1870-1958)

-Intermission -

Nishi Asakusa
(2007)

François Rossé
(b.1945)

Atoll II
(1982)

Isao Matsushita
(b.1951)

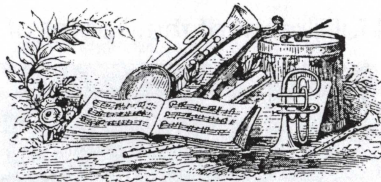
Suite for Alto Saxophone and Piano
(2010)

Zechariah Goh
(b.1970)

Flowing

Alone and distant

Convergence



Biographies:

Chee Meng Low, saxophone

Chee Meng Low, a native of Malaysia, is a graduate from the College of Music, Mahidol University Thailand, under the Master of Arts, performance program. He was the recipient of the College of Music's scholarship, and served as the teaching assistant for the saxophone and large ensemble studio.

During 2007-2010, Chee Meng served as the Assistant Communication and Planning Manager for the Thailand Philharmonic Orchestra, developing the education & outreach program. In addition to that, he also served as one of the saxophone instructors for the College of Music, Mahidol University, coaching private lessons, saxophone quartet, saxophone ensemble, and also as Assistant to the Deputy Director for Academic and Research Affairs.

Currently he is working on his Doctorate in Music degree at the University of Alberta Canada, under the guidance of William Street. He is the recipient of the University of Alberta FS Chia Doctoral Scholarship, Beryl Barns Memorial Graduate Award and the Edward Chang Memorial Award.

Chee Meng was a member of the International Committee, World Saxophone Congress. (2006-2009)

Roger Admiral, piano

Canadian pianist Roger Admiral performs solo and chamber music repertoire spanning the 18th through the 21st century. Known for his dedication to contemporary music, Roger has commissioned and premiered many new compositions. He also performs as part of Kovalis Duo with Montreal percussionist Philip Hornsey. Roger lives in Camrose, Alberta.

Roger studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music (Toronto), University of Western Ontario, and the University of Alberta, where he graduated with a Doctor of Music degree. His main teachers were Virginia Blaha, Peter Smith, Arthur Rowe, and Helmut Brauss.

Recent performances include recitals with baritone Nathan Berg at Lincoln Center (New York City), contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux at Symphony Under the Sky (Edmonton), violinist Ilya Kaler at Convocation Hall (Edmonton), violinist Guillaume Tardif at Carnegie Hall (New York City), and with New Music Concerts conducted by Robert Aitken (Toronto.) Currently he coaches contemporary chamber music at the University of Alberta.

Programme Note:

Fernande Decruck, a French female composer, wrote for the most part in a conservative, romantic style, but this sonata is written in a neo-impressionist style, through its harmonic vocabulary, chordal planing, pentatonic and modal scales. Sonata in C# was dedicated to Marcel Mule in 1944, who recorded the "Fileuse" movement. The work is composed in a traditional four-movement setting: a sonata-form opening movement, a slow second movement, a movement entitled "Fileuse" (spinning song), and a rondo-like finale.

French composer **Florent Schmitt** entered the Paris Conservatoire in 1889, where he studied under Albert Lavignac, Theodore Dubois, Jules Massenet, Gustave Sandre, and Gabriel Fauré. He wrote for the ballet, the stage and for film, as well as producing a wide range of instrumental and chamber works. Commissioned by the wealthy Boston socialite Elise Hall, Schmitt's *Légende* captures the ideas of the oriental flavorings. There are two prominent melodies in the piece that flow between the saxophone and the piano.

François Rossé went through his early musical training in an almost self-taught manner, and only later at the age of seventeen that he began serious instrumental studies at the Strasburg Conservatory and at the *Paris Ecole Normale de Musique*.

“Written after a trip to Japan, this work inspired by a Shinto ritual heard in the *Senjo-ji* temple in the Asakusa district (to be pronounced *Asaksa*), formerly Edo. A *recto tono* choir of low voices is sustained by the very rhythmic performance of the big *Taiko* drum, a magnificent skin instrument struck horizontally. The metallic instruments (*atari gane* or metals) are also present in the second part of this piece, in particular the overtone writing of the piano part.”

“Program note by the composer”

Matsushita, Isao, a Japanese composer, studied composition at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and the *Hochschule für Musik Berlin*. He has taught composition at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music since 1987 and has been a Professor of Asian contemporary music and other subjects at its Performing Arts Center since 2003. *Atoll II* was composed in 1982 for German saxophonist Detlef Bensmann.

Zechariah Goh Toh Chai studied piano with Ong Lip Tat, harmony with Phoon Yew Tien and counterpoint with Leong Yoon Pin while working on his Diploma of Music from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. In 1999, he received the David and Gunda Hiebert Scholarship award to work on his Master degree of Piano from University of Kansas. Subsequently, he worked on his doctoral degree majoring in Composition under the guidance of Dr. Charles Hoag. At the same time, he studied “Orchestration” and “Arranging for Band” under James Barnes. For his artistic excellence in the field of music, Zechariah was conferred the Young Artist Award (Music) in September 2003 by the National Arts Council, Singapore. The original two movement suite was written in year 2006, dedicated to Vincent Gnojek, saxophone professor at the University of Kansas (USA). Later, the composer added another movement to the suite and it was premiered in 2010 by Shyen Lee, saxophone professor at the Mahidol University (Thailand).